



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-95-066
Thursday
6 April 1995

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Japan

Expert-Level Auto Talks To Begin 13 Apr

OW0604121295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japan and the United States will likely resume their high-stakes auto trade negotiations with expert-level talks next week, a senior Japanese trade official said Thursday [6 April].

Experts will likely meet April 13 and 14 in Washington, ahead of vice-ministerial talks expected April 17 and 18, the official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

MITI officials and U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Jeffrey Garten have previously told reporters of the expected senior-level talks, but the timing of the preceding expert-level discussions had been unclear.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor turned up the heat Wednesday on the auto negotiations, the last unresolved sector in bilateral trade "framework" talks, telling a House of Representatives subcommittee that Japan has a "fairly short timetable" to conclude the talks if it wants to escape punitive actions.

Asian Response to USTR Trade Report Viewed

OW0504144395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 5

[By Asia affairs reporter Katsuhiko Iino]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its report on foreign trade barriers released recently, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) expressed strong dissatisfaction with the systems in Asian countries of protecting intellectual property rights. Although Asian countries and regions are critical of the report, they have concluded that they need to respond to the U.S. criticism with a bid to liberalize trade and investment in Asia. They are to respond to U.S. complaints by steadily implementing necessary measures. The USTR's report emphasizes the results of the United States' negotiations with other countries on market liberalization. Asian countries have reacted coolly to this. Nevertheless, there are still seeds of future friction because the U.S. trade deficit with Asian countries has been continually increasing. Meanwhile, European Union (EU) members will likely have difficulty adopting a unified stand on the report because their opinions are divided.

The United States and China signed an agreement on the protection of intellectual property rights only last month. Based on this accord, the Chinese Government has promoted the closing of factories producing pirated compact discs. However, the USTR's report devoted much space to China to urge it to fulfill the agreement. Concerning this, Beijing said: "The intellectual property rights issue is no longer a serious problem."

ASEAN members think: "There is no doubt that the United States will next put pressure on Indonesia, another promising market in Asia, as it did on China," (according to Helo Kunchoroyakti [name as published], a professor at Indonesia University). Thailand intends to urgently establish a system of quick settlement of problems concerning intellectual property rights to avert U.S. criticism.

ASEAN members plan to work out an agreement to form a common framework for the services trade and the protection of intellectual property rights while taking into account differing levels of development among them. They are to jointly deal with U.S. demands based on this agreement, which will probably strengthen their unity.

Taiwan has also begun efforts to enact legislation for protecting IC [integrated circuit] designs and to revise the copyright law. It is said that many karaoke bars called "KTV" in Taipei have used pirated software. Taiwan authorities are concerned how the United States will react to this.

Asian countries are worried about possible future friction with the United States over market liberalization issues. South Korea's Trade and Industry Ministry said: "It seems Washington is shifting its attention from tangible items, such as tariffs and trade volume, to intangible things such as customs clearance."

Complying with a U.S. demand, this year South Korea decreased its tariff rate on imported cars from 10 percent, almost equivalent to that adopted by European countries, to eight percent. It also simplified inspections of imported cars. The South Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association criticizes the USTR's report, saying: "We have made many concessions. Still, the United States demands more. Their demands are so severe that they are not worth talking about."

The liberalization of financial markets will also be a topic in future talks between Asian countries and the United States. The USTR's report urged Singapore and Malaysia to ease regulations on foreign entry into banking business. However, both Singapore and Malaysia note: "The ratio of foreign banks to domestic banks is much higher here than in any other countries. Thus, we cannot allow more foreign banks to make inroads into our country." However, they welcome the inroads of offshore banking units, which handle foreign currencies, into their markets. Because Malaysia has asserted that its financial futures market is open to foreign banks, the country is unlikely to comply with the U.S. demand.

OECD Asked To Pick Up Deregulation Issue

OW0604063595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro

Hashimoto on Thursday [6 April] asked the head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to take up deregulation and other structural issues at the OECD's ministerial meeting in May, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto told OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye that excessive regulations and other structural problems in Japan, for example, are reducing the appeal of investment in the country, the officials said.

The global economy's dynamism needs to be vitalized through the reforms of economic structure, Hashimoto was quoted as saying.

Paye said the OECD will hold a preparatory meeting for the May 23-24 ministerial gathering based on Hashimoto's suggestion, the officials said.

Paye was quoted as saying the upcoming meeting for 25 of the world's advanced nations will deal with three key issues—social issues involved in a policy of world growth and employment, a multilateral trading system, and ties between the OECD and non-OECD members.

Paye is visiting Japan and other OECD nations to hear opinions and views from each country to have them reflected in the coming OECD meeting.

Tokyo, U.S., Germany To Cooperate Over Dollar

OW0604004895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0016 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance [MOF] confirmed press reports early Thursday [6 April] that the central banks of Japan, Germany and the United States jointly stepped into currency markets the preceding day to arrest the plunge of the dollar.

The coordinated intervention "embodies the strong resolve to prevent a weaker dollar" on the part of the financial authorities of the three nations, said an official at the ministry's International Finance Bureau.

The official hinted such coordinated intervention would be repeated in the coming days, saying the authorities "will continue to counteract (the dollar's depreciation) at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner, rather than making the intervention an (isolated) case."

Four Nations Said To Discuss Investment Code

OW0504115095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Four global powers will consider proposing a foreign investment code for advanced nations, a top Japanese trade ministry official said Wednesday [5 April].

At a meeting early next month, trade ministers from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United

States will discuss proposing the code to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which groups the 25 most economically advanced nations, the official told reporters.

Once the code is implemented, developing nations could gradually accede to it when they are ready, the official from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ministers will also take up deregulation, market access and cooperation on standards when they meet in a Vancouver suburb, he said.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Tuesday in Washington that the quad ministers will also review talks on financial, telecommunications and other services and on implementing global trade accords on such areas as dispute settlement.

The MITI official dismissed Kantor's reported blasting of Japanese patent procedures as a major trade barrier.

"He's a politician," the MITI bureaucrat said, adding Kantor's comments in congressional testimony likely reflected an attempt to "maintain the political stance" of president Bill Clinton's government.

"Harsh comments are a recent characteristic" of Kantor's remarks to Congress, he said.

APEC To Discuss Forex Market Stabilization

OW0604105295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Finance ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, meeting in Indonesia on April 15-16, are expected to agree on measures to stabilize the foreign exchange market in Asia, international financial sources said Thursday [6 April].

The measures will cover APEC member nations and other parts of Asia's "emerging market" for sustained economic growth in the region, they said.

The ministers will agree to learn lessons from the Mexican currency crisis and discuss plans to create a system for mutual surveillance of balance of payments and other economic trends, the sources said.

The ministers are also likely to agree to establish a system for short-term international financing for stabilizing the currency market, the sources said.

Such a system is already being discussed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Mexican crisis was touched off by speculators' mass withdrawal of funds from the country after it developed serious balance of payments problems.

The crisis caused turmoil in foreign exchange and stock markets in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are considering a plan to establish an early warning system to foretell turbulence in the "emerging market."

The APEC meeting will be attended by finance ministers from 18 countries and areas, including Japan, the United States, China, Australia and the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Murayama Meets Toyoda Over Economic Issues

*OW0604063395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Thursday [6 April] told a business leader that his government will take drastic measures to boost the economy amid the yen's recent surge and drop in stock prices, officials said.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the influential Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), met Murayama at the Prime Minister's Official Residence to seek steps to stimulate the economy.

"We need to take drastic actions to cope with the yen's surge as well as stock price drops and to boost the economy," Murayama said. "I will take initiative to tackle such problems."

Concerning the yen's advance, Murayama said Japan and other major countries are going to make concerted intervention in the foreign exchange market, they said.

"The intervention may be able to stop the yen's rise. But it's hard to believe the yen's movement will be reversed by the intervention," Murayama said.

He indicated that the yen's appreciation will remain unless Japan's domestic demand is boosted and its huge current account surplus decreased.

Murayama also told Toyoda that front-loaded economic actions, which are included in the fiscal 1994 supplementary budget and public works spending projects in the fiscal 1995 budget, will help the economic recovery, they said.

Toyoda said the economy will undergo a serious phase if the stock price benchmark Nikkei average index slips to near 15,000.

Toyoda, who is also chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., said, "Though we don't want to see a bubble economy again, stock prices should stay at a higher level."

Isao Yonekura, vice chairman of Keidanren, urged the Bank of Japan to cut the official discount rate by around 0.75 percentage point.

Jiro Saito Comments on Record High Yen

*OW0604093995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito on Thursday [6 April]

expressed grave concern over the yen's latest surge against the dollar, terming the situation "regrettable."

Saito told a news conference that "we will take appropriate action in consultation with (major) countries."

But he refrained from detailing possible steps except to say that continued market intervention may be one measure.

Saito's comment came in response to the dollar's slip to a new global record low of 85.15 yen registered in Thursday's London market.

Major Banks To Cut Short-Term Prime Rates

*OW0604105195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Three major commercial banks separately said Thursday [6 April] they will lower their short-term prime lending rates to 2.75 percent per annum from the current 3.00 percent as market interest rates are falling.

Sanwa Bank and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank said the new rate will take effect next Tuesday, while Mitsubishi Bank said it will begin putting the new rate into effect next Wednesday.

Other major commercial banks are expected to follow suit.

The last short-term prime cut by major commercial banks, known as city banks in Japan, took place in December 1993.

The industrial bank of Japan and other long-term credit banks will shortly lower their long-term prime rates, officials said.

The banks have yet to decide on the margin of reduction, which is currently expected to be about 0.9 percentage point and bring the prime to around 3.6 percent.

Cuts in both short-term and long-term prime rates are expected to stimulate sluggish corporate demand for funds and prop up the slowing recovery of the domestic economy.

Ministers on Proposed EAEC Membership Stance

Igarashi Says Tokyo Undecided

*OW0604035395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japan has not yet decided whether to join the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), the top government spokesman said Thursday [6 April].

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi made the statement at a news conference, denying a news report that Tokyo has decided against the EAEC plan due to anxieties over a U.S. backlash.

In a front-page article Thursday, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN newspaper reported Japan made the decision on its beliefs that the need to create such an economic bloc has waned now that Asia-Pacific nations have the APEC forum to expedite economic cooperation.

The decision also stems from its concern that it should not take any actions that might ruffle the United States, Japan's chief trading partner, the paper said.

Igarashi reiterated that Tokyo is still considering whether to join the EAEC and sidestepped a question on when it will try to reach a final conclusion.

Saying the proposed body should not hamper cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, he also cited the need for broad support from major countries in the region for the creation of the EAEC.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has threatened to boycott a November summit in Osaka of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, unless Japan sends a minister to a gathering of ministers from possible EAEC member states scheduled to start April 30 in Thailand.

The EAEC, proposed by Mahathir, envisions putting together such Asian countries as China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well as the six member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to expedite cooperation for a greater flow of trade and investment within the area.

The U.S. has blasted the project for carrying the danger of forming an exclusive trading bloc from which it and other Pacific rim nations could be shut out.

Tsutsumi Hints Not Likely To Join

*OW0604113095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japan will likely not join the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) proposed by Malaysia but harshly opposed by the United States, a top trade official hinted Thursday [6 April].

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said his "assumption" is that Asian nations will not invite Australia and New Zealand to a proto-EAEC meeting this month, and thus failing to meet Tokyo's precondition to attend.

Japan's absence reportedly could gut the effectiveness of the proposed EAEC and provoke a strong response from its architect, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir.

If the two nations do not attend the unofficial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

starting April 30 in Phuket, Thailand, "we will have no option" but to skip the meeting, Tsutsumi told a news conference.

Japan has made it clear that MITI Chief Ryutaro Hashimoto will not attend the economic ministers' meeting in Thailand without the presence of Australia and New Zealand, and "we will stick with our original plan," he said.

It appears it will be difficult to reach a consensus among the ASEAN countries on inviting the two, he said.

The ASEAN meeting is seen as the virtual formation of the EAEC, a regional grouping proposed by Mahathir that would exclude the U.S.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Thursday that Japan has informally decided not to join the EAEC out of fear of a U.S. backlash and because Japan also thinks that the need for such an economic bloc has waned now that Asia-Pacific nations have the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum—which includes the U.S.—to expedite economic cooperation.

if Japan does not join the EAEC, the bloc would essentially be an organization shell with "low efficacy," the newspaper said in its lead morning story.

Host nation Thailand also invited Japan, China and South Korea to the Phuket meeting. Tsutsumi said he has heard that China will attend but does not know about South Korea, adding that Seoul apparently is keeping a close watch on Tokyo's stance on the issue.

Japan has not confirmed whether Australia and New Zealand will attend and thus has not officially decided whether Hashimoto will go, Tsutsumi said.

Top government spokesman Kozo Igarashi said earlier in the day that Tokyo is still considering whether to join the EAEC, sidestepping a media question on when it will try to reach a final conclusion.

But Igarashi, chief cabinet secretary, said the EAEC should not hamper Asia-Pacific cooperation, adding that creation of the bloc would require broad support from major countries in the region.

Mahathir has threatened to boycott an APEC summit in November in Osaka if Japan does not send a minister to the Phuket meeting.

He envisions grouping such Asian countries and areas as China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan with the six ASEAN members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—to expedite cooperation to boost regional trade and investment.

The U.S. has blasted the proposal as a potentially exclusive trading bloc from which it and other Pacific Rim nations could be shut out.

Dalai Lama Holds Talks on Subway Attack, Asahara

*OW0604070095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama says he was “shocked” when he heard of the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system March 20, and emphasizes that violence is “against human nature.”

In a recent interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE and three Japanese dailies, he said an investigation of the Aum Shinrikyo religious sect, whose leader he had met, was the only way to handle the incident in which sarin gas killed 11 people and made thousands more ill.

“If something wrong has been done, then it’s very unfortunate. If they (Aum) did not do anything wrong, good. So, an investigation is the only way,” he said.

The Dalai Lama recalled that when he first met the secretive cult’s leader Shoko Asahara he was impressed by what appeared to be Asahara’s seriousness and spirituality.

“I consider him (Asahara) as my friend, but not necessarily a perfect one,” he said.

Aides to the Nobel Peace Prize winner say he first met Asahara in 1987 and has met the Aum leader four or five times since then.

Asked about Asahara’s doomsday vision of Armageddon in 1997, the Dalai Lama joked that the only thing he knows about that year is that Hong Kong is to revert to China, and emphasized that humanity has the ability to determine its own future.

“There are many people in the West, too, with a pessimistic attitude. Usually I tell these people that much rests upon our shoulders,” he said.

“I believe if we properly plan, properly work, and are properly motivated, I am quite sure that humanity has the ability to alter these problems,” he said.

The Dalai Lama also stressed that taking up arms to protect religion is “absolutely wrong,” adding that human nature is fundamentally gentle and the best method to resolve conflict is “nonviolence in the spirit of reconciliation and compromise.”

“The violent method is actually against human nature. Very often if you follow the violent method, you may solve one problem, but that method creates another new problem. The side effect is immense,” he cautioned.

With religious and cultural strife intensifying in the post-Cold War world, he also stressed the importance of mutual understanding between people across the world.

“In spite of different cultures, different religions, if you look on the level of humanity, we belong to the same

family,” he said. “The problem is that sometimes people place too much emphasis on the differences and forget about the common things.”

The Dalai Lama criticized political and military leaders who “try to take advantage of their unique cultural or national identity to make a rift between one (nation and) another.”

The Dalai Lama arrived last week for his first visit to Japan in 11 years at the invitation of a religious organization based in western Japan.

China, expressing opposition to his visit, said any political activities by the Tibetan spiritual leader while in Japan would be regarded as an interference in China’s domestic affairs.

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in India since he fled from Tibet in 1959 after Chinese invasion there.

Aum Bought Ex-Soviet Unit’s Military Manuals

*OW0604033695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The religious cult Aum Shinrikyo, now under investigation on suspicion of producing highly toxic nerve gas sarin, bought military training manuals for a former Soviet special unit last year from a Japanese publishing house, according to the publisher.

Officials at the publishing house said a man who claimed to be an employee of a publishing firm run by the religious sect bought 20 copies of the Japanese version of the military training manual for a KGB unit last April.

They said the manual details how to capture enemies and how to kidnap people in a town as well as how to conduct physical training.

The man in question also purchased the Japanese version of a U.S. book on an antiterrorism unit in the United States, they said.

The disclosure came as police are hunting for a sect member for allegedly kidnapping the brother of a sect member in February.

The sect is alleged to have run a special group that it calls “The Defense Agency,” which is suspected of taking back followers who tried to leave the sect, police sources said.

Reflecting the sect’s interest in military operations, Aum planned a military training tour to Russia last September, although it was not realized, according to people familiar with the tour.

The tour, planned by a company run by the sect, was to include military training and shooting drills with a former member of the special KGB unit, they said.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, some Japanese tourism agents have organized "military tours" to Russia to allow tourists to fly in a Russian jetfighter and enjoy shooting exercises.

The religious cult has been subject to massive police raids since March 22 as it is alleged to have produced sarin, the highly toxic nerve gas used in the March 20 nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway system that killed 11 people and made more than 5,500 others ill.

At a sect complex in the village of Kamikuishiki, Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, police so far have seized tons of chemicals and equipment that could produce enough sarin to kill millions of people.

In a related development, local firefighters to date have searched a heliport owned by the sect in Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Prefecture, for the alleged storage of helicopter fuel without necessary approval.

They said six drums containing a total of 1,200 liters of such fuel were found at the heliport. Under law, a local license is needed to store 1,000 liters or more of fuel such as kerosene and diesel oil.

The sect owns a large helicopter made in the former Soviet Union but it does not have a license to fly it.

Meanwhile, police announced the arrest of five more male sect followers as they continued raids on the sect's facilities nationwide.

Three of them were arrested early Thursday in Tokyo's Minato Ward for breaking into an underground parking lot. The men, aged between 21 and 31, refused to identify themselves or say why they broke into the parking lot, police said.

Potassium Cyanide on Aum Cult Purchase List

OW0504061595 Tokyo TBS Television Network in Japanese 1400 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Announcer read report with video footage from "News 23" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a JNN scoop. It has just been learned that Aum Shinrikyo made a massive purchase of highly toxic potassium cyanide late last year. This lot of potassium cyanide has not been found during the searches conducted so far.

Actually, the relationship between Aum Shinrikyo and potassium cyanide is one of the mysteries in the investigations. On 23 February, Shoko Asahara himself made a statement admitting that potassium cyanide had been found at Kamikuishiki Village.

[Begin Asahara recording] Potassium cyanide is among the items confiscated this time. However, if you ask someone who is familiar with chemical plants, he will tell you: Oh, potassium cyanide? That is a common substance used for gold plating. [end recording]

However, potassium cyanide is not included in the chemicals confiscated during the present investigations. This is a great mystery.

Yet, according to JNN's investigations, Aum Shinrikyo was found to have purchased potassium cyanide last December. Furthermore, the volume procured was around 80 kilograms, enough to kill 530,000 people.

According to investigations done by JNN so far, Aum Shinrikyo placed an order for as many as 160 500-gram bottles, or a total of 80 kilograms, of potassium cyanide with a chemical manufacturer in Chuo Ward, Tokyo in late December. Aum paid 182,400 yen for this order. The 160 bottles of potassium cyanide were ordered through a Aum front company in Tatomi-cho, Yamanashi Prefecture. On 26 December, delivery was made to a warehouse of the front company in Kofu City, two days after the order was placed.

The person in charge of the chemical company that received the order from Aum Shinrikyo made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The front company was created by [operating] a warehouse. This warehouse became a company. This was what had happened before the purchase was made. But we still do not know what happened since then. The truth is: We made the delivery to the company there. I can tell you now that it was a front company, but at that time, it was a legal company. For us, if a company is legally recognized, we can sell our products. [end recording]

The potassium cyanide purchased by Aum Shinrikyo is a highly toxic cyanide. As little as 0.1 gram of this chemical is enough to kill one person. That means, a 500-gram bottle of potassium cyanide is enough to kill 3,333 people. Based on this calculation, the 160 bottles Aum bought is enough poison to kill around 533,000 people.

[Begin chemical company official recording] We handle a total of 10,000 to 20,000 different chemicals. It is impossible for the salesman to ask each and every customer the purpose of their purchase in marketing operations. Well, maybe we should do it, but in reality, this is impossible. [end recording]

The front company that purchased the potassium cyanide was capitalized at 10 million yen, and was formed in March 1994. A female Aum follower, who graduated from a college of pharmaceutical science in Tokyo, served as the company's president. This company had always avoided large lot orders of potassium cyanide and a variety of other chemicals.

[Begin chemical company official recording] We never had any problem with payment. Well, shall we say, payments were made in cash. You can say they were good in making payments. [end recording]

Aum is said to have also made inquiries about other chemicals. The chemical company said they found nothing unusual with such inquiries.

[Begin chemical company official recording] Inquiries were made on the purity and contents of chemicals. We found no reason to be concerned. [end recording]

According to a list of chemical purchases obtained by JNN, it was also learned that over the past year, Aum Shinrikyo bought a total of more than 50 chemicals. [video shows the following partial list of chemicals:

Date	Chemical	Amount(cc)	Units
22 Apr 94	diethylamine	500	4
	methanol	500	100
	diethyl ether	500	500
	chloroform	500	20
18 May 94	diethyl ether	1,000	145
9 Jun 94	trifluorhydride	25	12
5 Dec 94	dimethylamino	500	42
	butane	(amount unknown)	
12 Dec 94	sulfuric acid	500	
16 Dec 94	ethanol	1,800	
26 Dec 94	potassium cyanide	500	160
	apodinitrile	25	17
	paraxylene	500	30
	dimethylsulfoxide	500	1
	ethrobenzen	500	40
	ethanol	1,800	17
7 Feb 95	nitromethane	500	182
23 Feb 95	2-butanone	14	1
27 Feb 95	jifuerohosu-horo (as published)	25	4

[Begin chemical company official recording] This front company ceased to exist six months ago. It seems that the company was created temporarily to make the purchases. In effect, we sold to such a company. [end recording]

Aum bought potassium cyanide around four months ago. Even if, as Asahara claimed, the chemical is being used for gold plating Buddhist statues, experts say that it is nearly impossible to use up 160 bottles of potassium cyanide in four months.

It seems that the investigation authorities are also aware of Aum Shinrikyo's purchase of potassium cyanide. However, since this chemical has not been found during the ongoing investigations, the authorities intend to continue investigating, in the belief that the chemical may possibly be concealed in an Aum facility that has not yet been searched.

Regarding this massive purchase of potassium cyanide, Aum Shinrikyo issued comments today saying that it is

not able to confirm the facts, and that even if Aum possesses potassium cyanide, this is being used for such purposes as gold plating of Buddhist statues. It claims that potassium cyanide is widely used for industrial purposes, and thousands of tons of potassium cyanide are consumed in Japan each year.

Tokyo Extends Aid to Developing Nations

Jordan: 660 Million Yen

OW3003121395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan has extend [as received] Jordan up to 660 million yen in grant-in-aid to cooperate in its project to improve equipment for water supply facilities, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [30 March].

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda and Samir Kavar [spelling of name as received], Jordanian transport minister and acting minister for planning, exchanged notes on the Japanese aid in Amman earlier in the day, the ministry said.

The aid will be used to purchase machinery to repair three water supply facilities in Jordan.

About 50 percent of water supply facilities in Jordan are old and faulty, the ministry said.

Sarajevo: \$1 Million

OW0404144595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, April 4 KYODO—The World Health Organization (WHO) announced Tuesday [4 April] that the Japanese Government is giving 1 million dollars in emergency aid to support the work of its organization in former Yugoslavia.

The money will be targeted toward rebuilding 50 neighborhood primary health care centers in greater Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, that have been damaged during the conflict, the announcement said.

Forty of the centers are in areas currently held by the Bosnian Government and 10 are in areas held by serbian forces. Most of the centers should be fully functional within a few months.

In addition to providing assistance to the who, Japan is giving emergency aid to former yugoslavia by donating 500 million yen to the world food program and 1 million dollars to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the announcement said.

S. Africa: 10 Billion Yen

OW0504104795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan said Wednesday [5 April]

it will extend an aggregate amount of 10 billion yen in an untied loan to the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

The loan will be made as part of a financial assistance program the Japanese Government arranged for South Africa last July, the Ex-Im Bank said.

The bank said the second untied Japanese loan to South Africa will be used to finance the promotion of economic development and reduce imbalances in levels of economic development in the country.

The DBSA is a governmental financial institution established to promote economic development and raise the standard of living in South Africa, the Ex-Im Bank added.

Nepal: 1.39 Billion Yen

OW2903102495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 29 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono pledged Wednesday [29 March] to give Nepal grant-in-aid totaling 1.39 billion yen to help it increase food resources and carry out its project to improve equipment for river and road protection, the Foreign Ministry said.

Kono and Nepal's Foreign Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal exchanged notes on the Japanese aid at the Ikura Guest House in Tokyo.

Of the aid, 790 million yen is aimed at financing the purchase of construction machinery necessary to prevent river floods and to protect roads.

Another 600 million yen will be given to help Nepal buy rice from Thailand.

Laos: 875 Million Yen

OW2903095795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1700 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 29 KYODO—Japan will extend Laos a grant-in-aid totalling 875 million yen to help it buy rice and to aid a project to improve international communications, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [29 March].

Japanese Ambassador to Laos Masao Wada and Laotian Vice Foreign Minister Phongsavath Boupa exchanged notes on the Japanese aid in Vientiane earlier in the day.

Of the aid, 650 million yen will go to help Laos purchase Thai rice, while 225 million yen will be provided for a project to beef up its international communications system, the ministry said.

The aid brings the total amount of Japanese assistance to Laos in fiscal 1994 to 4.5 billion yen.

Pakistan: 839 Million Yen

OW0504070195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Japan will give Pakistan grant-in-aid totaling 839 million yen for projects to develop underground water resources and improve facilities at a museum, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [5 April].

Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Takao Kawakami and Aftab Ahmad Khan, secretary of Pakistan's Finance Ministry, exchanged notes on the Japanese aid in Islamabad earlier in the day.

Of the aid, 791 million yen will be granted to help Pakistan purchase machinery for developing underground water resources in the northwest frontier province, the ministry said.

The remaining 48 million yen will be used to purchase audiovisual equipment for a natural history museum.

Kunihiko Saito Likely New Ambassador to U.S.

OW0504234795 Tokyo KYODO in English 2337 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono has agreed in principle to name Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito as new ambassador to the United States, a major daily reported Thursday [6 April].

Saito, 60, is expected to replace Takakazu Kuriyama as new U.S. envoy before the end of the year, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said. Kuriyama was also vice foreign minister before becoming ambassador to Washington.

Saito is expected to assume the post of adviser to the Foreign Ministry after a summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers in Halifax, Canada, in June before being formally appointed as U.S. envoy, the paper said.

The ministry's No. 3 man, Deputy Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi, 57, is likely to succeed Saito as vice foreign minister, the daily said.

Ambassador to the United Nations Hisashi Owada was first considered as Kuriyama's successor but it was concluded that it would not be appropriate for Owada to act as a negotiator in often jerky Japan-U.S. talks in view of his position as the father of Princess Masako, wife of Crown Prince Naruhito, the YOMIURI said.

Another reason was that it would be unwise to replace the UN envoy at a time when Japan is seeking to win a permanent seat on the world body's Security Council, it added.

LDP's Call for Saito's Resignation Examined

OW0604110195 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 1 Apr 95 p 17

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] He seems to have entirely lost his influence, though he was said to be a "superbureaucrat." Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka suddenly called for the resignation of Jiro Saito, administrative vice minister of finance and the top bureaucrat at the ministry, during an informal ministerial meeting on the morning of 14 March. Nonaka, who is a member of the ruling coalition's dominant Liberal Democratic Party, has been known for his critical attitude toward the Ministry of Finance. "The top bureaucrat has never taken any responsibility until now, although there have been many problems for which the Ministry of Finance was responsible, such as the series of scandals involving the securities industry following the bursting of the bubble economy, and the failed plan to introduce a national welfare tax. With regard to the national welfare tax plan, Saito was deeply involved in politics, as he successfully made then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announce the new tax plan. The current abnormal situation was created by such behavior," Nonaka said during the meeting.

This remark was extremely well timed, because it came one day after the Ministry of Finance announced its decision to penalize two senior officials who had accepted excessive gifts and invitations from the president of a virtually bankrupt credit association. "Nonaka has been waiting for an opportunity to call for Saito's resignation," an LDP executive member said with satisfaction, implying that that had done the trick.

Saito's close relationship with Ichiro Ozawa is said to be the cause of the LDP's Saito-bashing. However, most bureaucrats do not view the matter in that light: "Saito is a poor hand at doing legwork through contacts with politicians. His channels with politicians are rather weak compared with that of his predecessors. Thus the LDP is trying to control the Ministry of Finance by taking advantage of the false image attributed to Saito."

According to sources close to the LDP, some LDP leaders, including Koichi Kato, chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council, are in contact with some Finance Ministry officials, while refusing to meet those belonging to the so-called Saito group. This proves the LDP's strategy to divide and conquer the Ministry of Finance.

Nonaka's call for Saito's resignation has hurt Finance Ministry officials to the extreme. Some of them have even begun to relish their harsh opinion toward Saito. "The current budget and its related measures will expire at the end of March. Once he finishes his policy-management work for the current fiscal year, he does not have to wait until June, the month of personnel changes. He can quit immediately, saying that he made up his mind to resign his office, not under pressure from politics but because he wanted to fulfill his responsibility as an administrative official."

Mr. Saito, what are you going to do under such circumstances?

LDP Leader Indicates Possible Double Election

OW0504070295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0555 GMT
5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—A senior leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday [5 April] indicated the possibility of holding a general poll along with the House of Councillors election in July.

"I cannot say there will be no double elections," LDP Vice President Keizo Obuchi said at a press luncheon, referring to the prospects of the political situation for some time to come.

He said some LDP members argue that an early dissolution of the House of Representatives for a snap general election would favor the LDP and damage the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

But Obuchi reiterated that he firmly believes the next general poll, the first to be contested under a new polling system combining single-seat constituencies with proportional representation, should be held around the fall of 1996.

While saying the chances of its being realized "extremely slim," he also cited the possibility of uniting major ruling and opposition parties to form a grand coalition to tackle national tasks.

Obuchi is a protege of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who is widely believed to be an eminence rise of the current tripartite coalition government comprising the LDP, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party [of Japan] and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger].

* Article Discusses Anti-Takemura Trend

952B0134A Tokyo SHUKAN ASAHI in Japanese 10
Mar 95 pp 138-140

[Article by Takeshi Soga, SHUKAN ASAHI reporter: "Can the Balkan Minister of Finance Takemura Go Back To Being Mumin Papa?"]

[Text] During the commotion about the National Welfare Tax, Takemura said sharply, "they will have to admit their mistakes." For some reason, he seemed to represent the "good guy" compared to the "bad guy," Ichiro Ozawa. It has been a year since then. Now Takemura is the one being admonished to "correct his mistakes," and this time political circles are not "anti-Ozawa," but "anti-Takemura." What has happened to Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura?

Although Balkan is not that bad as far as political nicknames go, Finance Minister Takemura seems to really be bothered when he is called that and cannot stand it. Whenever he goes to the outlying areas to deliver a speech he inevitably says "I'm called Machiavellian or a Balkan politician; it's mortifying." One time,

a critical New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] Diet member lightly admonished him, "What's wrong with Balkan? After all, there's some practicality to it, it's not merely idealistic." Takemura apparently responded with a fairly distressed expression on his face, "try putting yourself in my place when I'm called that. It's hard."

It seems that a stuffed toy presented by a high school girl carefully adorns his room in the Parliament Members' Office Building, so Takemura appears to be happier with the nickname "Mumin Papa" [a benevolent father figure in a comic strip].

But as of late, it is inevitable that Takemura should fall back into this way of thinking.

They say in political circles now that the new trend is a shift from being "anti-Ozawa" to "anti-Takemura." And although one almost feels "so what if Nagata-cho is allowing this bullying," the case has been most recently one of "Takemura bashing."

Take, for example, the issue of consolidating the special public corporations which Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in a grand gesture began as part of administrative reform. Despite the fact that the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Executive Division was unusually positive about the proposal to integrate the Japan Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of Japan, the greatest point of contention of the reforms, Mr. Takemura, the boss of the Ministry of Finance [MOF], did not give his okay and ultimately suffered the disgrace of being the one to "kill administrative reform."

And then there are the unified local elections which are the final battle for the definitive 1995 political elections. The allied Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] is exploding with frustration because in the election for governor of Mie Prefecture, the New Party Sakigake, which Mr. Takemura leads, is backing a candidate from the New Frontier Party, while in the election for governor of Hokkaido, it is supporting a candidate that had split from the SDPJ. During the 16 February SDPJ Central Executive Committee meeting, voices censorious of Mr. Takemura were heard to say, "he nodded his head over and over, but in the end Mr. Takemura didn't give his consent." The term used at the time to tease him was "Balkan politician."

Then, came the "disorderly" financing deals of Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association and Anzen Credit Association. As a matter of course, the opposition New Frontier Party threatened the finance minister with resignation, and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the minister of international trade and industry, and Hiromu Nonaka, the minister of home affairs, were openly critical of the dubiousness of the MOF's plan to rescue the two credit associations.

With the blunders continuing in this way, of course Mr. Takemura feels as though he would like to be purified. But in fact, when sitting drinking with good friends late

in February, Takemura in an unusual moment complained, "February is the demon's gate. Last year it was the commotion about the National Welfare Tax, right. Now a north wind is blowing this way."

What he reflects upon as being a particular failure is the proposal to integrate the Japan Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of Japan. A confidant of Mr. Takemura's confesses: "In fact, the reason Mr. Takemura denied the LDP Executive Division's proposal was because he had information from former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has a lot of influence over the MOF, that "because of opposition from the LDP press assembly men, the LDP couldn't come to an agreement in the end." With this, ultimately, Mr. Takemura unfortunately gave the impression that he had chosen the camp of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Obuchi faction over the Executive Division which includes the 'YKK Group,' Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and LDP President, and Policy Research Council Chairman Kato." One can well understand the mystery of why this is so distasteful if one reflects upon Mr. Takemura's political position until now.

There is a tale about his sympathizing with socialism while a high school student at Yokaichi, Shiga Prefecture. Thereafter, Mr. Takemura went from the Nagoya University Engineering Department, to the Tokyo University Economics Department, until at the age 27 Mr. Takemura became a "married man" and official at the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a student, he became acquainted with the old, right-wing Yoshitaka Yotsu-moto after being introduced by the head of the local shrine during the course of his religious meditation.

Step by Step, Power Advances Adeptly With "Reform" as Weapon

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka had his eye on Takemura's writing while he was at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Takemura became one of the ghost writers of the report which swept the nation, *Plan To Remodel the Japanese Archipelago*. A short time thereafter Mr. Takemura became mayor of the city of Yokaichi and made his name with unique government administration such as the declaration that Yokaichi was a "bicycle city" and with a department where the public could ask anything. Then, he was originally elected governor of Shiga Prefecture with the backing of the opposition party which included the Japan Communist Party, but he managed to get the support of the LDP the second term and was the first governor in the nation to run on the tickets of all parties.

Then, immediately after the Recruit Scandal when he was an LDP Diet member, he formed the "Utopian Government Research Group" with a friend currently in the New Party Sakigake and was installed as chief secretary of the LDP's Political Reform Promotion Headquarters where he, along with Masaharu Gotoda, the headquarters chief, made his name as "Mr. Reform-ist."

When the administration changed in 1993, he formed the New Party Sakigake which split from the LDP on the basis that the LDP was not enthusiastic enough about political reform, thereby becoming a founder of the non-LDP administration. Acting on principle, he voted against the proposed vote of no confidence in the cabinet which would have resulted in a dissolution of the cabinet and a general election, causing the then LDP secretary general, Seiroku Kajiyama, to admit, "his behavior is refreshing. It's different from the Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] where there was always a struggle for power."

Then in February 1994 he was the Hosokawa administration's chief cabinet secretary. When he saw Ichiro Ozawa and others get together with the MOF to force through the concept of a National Welfare Tax he uttered the wise saying "they will have to admit their mistakes" and proceeded to withdraw.

Thereafter, his "anti-Ozawa" stance became vividly distinct and in June 1994 when the Murayama administration was established Takemura was active as a key person. In common parlance, the fact that "he still had a strangely fresh student quality to him" (a young New Party Sakigake Diet member), was the reason for the positive feeling toward him. When the general contractor scandal arose, he commented in an oddly candid way, "if I let my guard down a little I would have fallen prey to the temptation (of the construction company). It was a struggle within my own heart." And when the situation in North Korea became strained, he confided to a Diet member friend, "Kim Il-song is a human being too. Should I try direct negotiations on my own?" And about the review of the PKO [UN Peacekeeping Operations] Cooperation Law, he says, "what about a peacekeeping force to reforest the Sahara Desert?"

In other words, roughly speaking, even when on the same side as the power of the times, such as that of the conservative faction or Mr. Ozawa and others, then Takemura's best attribute is the fact that he raises objections to a stronger political existence. Now he is in the position of fearing a double loss of reputation: "he is awash in criticism and without a place to flee as the ultimate authority on problems relating to the credit unions and special public corporations and as the person of highest responsibility at the MOF. Moreover, if one focuses on the relationship with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita one would have to say 'well, Takemura opposed Ozawa, but after all he is on good terms with Takeshita. So really he is conservative.' Insofar as he stands at the head of political reform, it will be fatal" (young New Party Sakigake Diet member). At a General Assembly meeting of the New Party Sakigake on 15 February, a lack of trust in Takemura such as "we don't always necessarily follow Takemura's opinions," was exposed and they were forced to conclude that "is was the first crisis since the party had been formed."

Close Ties Between the Two "Take's" Explains Decline in Image

If one looks at it this way, one can well understand the strategy of the Japan New Party in obstinately hounding him in the Diet: "didn't Mr. Takemura consult with former Prime Minister Takeshita beforehand on the bailout plan for the credit associations?" And, according to the press in some weeklies and the news from Nagata-cho, a story was floating around that "in December 1994, five individuals had a meeting and conferred on the bailout plan, including the director of the Anzen Credit Association, Mr. Yoshitaka Yotsumoto, Mr. Takemura, and former Prime Minister Takeshita," but this story is the "scandal" neatly pointing out the weakness of Mr. Takemura.

Nevertheless, even voices within the New Party Sakigake are heard to say about the old fox, "Balkan politician," "one or two setbacks are probably all right if one thinks about the fact that as a reform governor he won over the outspoken conservative members of parliament." First, the SDPJ Murayama group says that the linchpin for the "third political pole" is the tie-up with the New Party Sakigake and goes as far as saying "Mr. Takemura's image of integrity is the last hope for the new party to expand. The feeling of displeasure with respect to 'Takemura bashing' is the same feeling as that between Prime Minister Murayama and Mr. Takemura and between the SDPJ and the New Party Sakigake" (an individual in the Secretariat of the Murayama group). In addition, it appears that there has been a truce for the time being in the close contest between the "Kono-YKK group" and the "Takeshita-Obuchi group." In other words, it seems like there isn't much to worry about with regard to relationships between the three parties in the coalition. The problem is that if that image of integrity, "small but shining brightly," is lost, the fragility of the small household [of the party]—between 25 and 29 people—will probably be brought to light.

Nagata-cho is a place where jealousy of a political career consisting of being elected three times and capturing the position of finance minister can be expressed by the thought, "Takemura is always riding a winning horse." If the suspicions surrounding the credit unions are further complicated and a critical situation develops, such as the resignation of the finance minister, how will he resurrect himself?

Former Prime Minister Takeo Miki, the great predecessor of the Balkan politician, took the seat of prime minister, sold on an image of integrity after former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka fell as a result of the money trail scandal. However, when "Hurricane Miki" swept through the party he was unable to overcome the heavy odds of being the smallest faction in the party and in the end sadly was made to resign.

Recently, Foreign Minister Kono, without any designs whatsoever, tossed out a joke to Mr. Takemura who was by his side, "there is a call for the Japan New Party to

back Kunio Hatoyama in the mayoral elections; at that time, if it's the same Hatoyama, what about sending out Mr. Yukio Hatoyama of the New Party Sakigake?" Mr. Kono sincerely expected the usual guffaw out of Mr. Takemura, but what he got was an unexpectedly serious word: "Pardon me. We'll be in trouble, if we lose even one person."

* New 'Multimedia' Zoku Group Featured

952B0109A Tokyo SEIKAI in Japanese Feb 95 pp 36-41

[Article by Miyokichi Takanashi, journalist]

[FBIS Translated Text] *It has been said that the year 1994 was the "First Year of Multimedia." It should be welcomed that this frontier industry with an estimated "123-trillion-yen market" by the year 2010 has begun to develop in full scale. But, at the same time, members of the Diet with a keen sense of self-interests have also begun to gather around this industry. When it comes to scale of industry, multi-media is in a completely different class from public works. This year will see an intensifying battle over "multimedia interests" between the group led by Ichiro Ozawa, who pinned down the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT] during the former coalition government, and the allied group of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] that seized political power.*

New Zoku-Dietmen Swarm over the "123-Trillion-Yen Market"

The [recent] White Paper on Communications named the year 1994 as the "first year of multimedia." And, according to a report issued in June 1994 by the Deliberative Council on Telecommunications, a policy was clearly advanced to promote the multimedia industry by laying the B-ISDN [Integrated Service Digital Network] of fiber optics cables nationwide in Japan by the year 2020. This is the Japanese version of the "information superhighway" proposed by U.S. Vice-President Gore in 1993. As the MPT estimates that the "market for multimedia will be 123 trillion yen [Y] by the year 2010," signifying the beginning of a frontier industry for the 21st century that will generate economic effects enormously larger than those created by public investments in the past. An issues relating to money always involves the question of rights and interests. And, members of the Diet with a keen sense of self-interests would never remain quiet on such an issue. Even after the end of a one-party rule by the LDP, new zoku-Dietmen in particular have begun to seek these new rights and interests.

On 16 November, only a year and five months after it broke off from the LDP to become independent, the Shinseito convened a meeting to dissolve itself and merge into the New Frontier Party [NFP]. The meeting was held at a time when not only the NFP was unable to establish its political foundation and experiencing a lack of unity, but also the Shinseito itself was on the verge of

a breakup. In his speech, however, President Hata of the Shinseito expressed his strong determination by venturing to draw an example on the multimedia industry. He said, "We must take a bold step to promote reform of our economic and industrial structure through creation of new industries, including the multimedia industry."

It was not so long ago when the multimedia began to attract attention. Ever since the MPT's estimate of the 123-trillion-yen market was publicized, movements among new zoku-Dietmen, which had been inconspicuous up until that time, have begun to surface. Dietmen reacted immediately to this "delicious" prospect of the market that is three times larger than that of the automobile industry.

The then leading coalition parties formed a "Dietmen's League To Promote Multimedia" in June. Deputy Secretary-General Kozo Watanabe of the Shinseito became the chairman of the league, and the number of its members exceeded eighty.

The LDP also created a "Forum on Multimedia" chaired by Chairman Keizo Obuchi of the former Keiseikai. The initial number of members was about 160.

The "Dietmen's League To Promote Multimedia" in particular had a strong connection with the MPT. The Bureaus of Communications Policy, Telecommunications, and Broadcasting Administration are called the MPT's three bureaus on telecommunications. Such self-proclaimed "VIPs on telecommunications" as Permanent Vice-Minister Haruki Matsuno, Telecommunications Bureau Chief Mitsuo Igarashi, and Broadcasting Administration Bureau Chief Egawa frequently attended meetings and exchanged pleasant conversations with the League's Secretary General Sukita, a member of the lower house. The Shinseito's top executives became zoku-Dietmen quickly by threatening the MPT's bureaucrats: "If you make any strange moves with the LDP, we will have you fired in no time."

The Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka Reigned over Administration of Radio Waves

Having declared the "First Year of Multimedia" and by jumping on the bandwagon, the MPT hoped to raise its status from the third-class to the first-class ministry. By making a full use of the power of those Dietmen with a keen sense of self-interests, it planned to achieve this objective through elimination of its competitors, such as the MITI and NTT, and by building multimedia networks on its own.

The MITI, which had fought the "VAN [Valued Added Network] War" before, also tried eagerly to seek expansion of its ministerial interests. In September, the "Dietmen's League for Promotion of the Information Industry," which had been created by the Shinseito during the Hosokawa administration and remained inactive, requested the former coalition group to join in as members. Two weeks later, it started holding a meeting to

study the multimedia. The LDP also has a study group with the same name; the group began to hold a meeting every month. Thus, the second "VAN War" ensued.

Many members of the LDP's Dietmen's League belong to two groups concurrently—one is the MPT-oriented group, and the other the MITI-oriented group. The same is true among the members of the former coalition's league. Therefore, there are many Dietmen who want to have insurance on the two ministries and thereby to gain however the things turn out. The Dietmen from the former coalition in particular were noticeably in high spirits. As the Hosokawa administration's budget largely followed the Miyazawa administration's, the former coalition group had a strong desire to form an "independent budget" on its own. In place of the zoku-Dietmen from the LDP, which was on the verge of collapse, this former coalition group was about to take an initiative over the rights and interests. But, there came a sudden change in administration. The Dietmen from the former coalition group were very disappointed.

Then, the LDP's former zoku-Dietmen initiated direct counterattacks.

Administration of radio waves used to be the vested interests controlled entirely by the former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka. After Mr. Tanaka became ill, Shin Kanemaru succeeded. He became the don of the MPT; he not only gathered votes and money by controlling the National Association of Postmasters of Special Post Offices, but also exercised a hidden influence over broadcasting and radio waves. As opening of a new TV station and so on are all subject to licensing, politicians can become involved quite easily. These politicians also strengthened their influence over management of major newspapers. Those in charge of day-to-day administration under Kanemaru included Home Affairs Minister Nonaka, Lower House Dietman Sukita, the NFP's Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa, and the LDP's Vice President Keizo Obuchi. These individuals are so-called zoku-Dietmen of the MPT.

During the era of a one-party rule by the LDP, this group was proud of its tight unity. But, after Kanemaru was arrested and indicted for his tax evasion, an infamous crime, a bitter battle ensued between Mr. Ozawa's non-LDP group and Mr. Obuchi's pro-LDP group. It was Ozawa's group that launched an all-out offensive. Mr. Ozawa's strength was backed by the political power. In other words, bureau chiefs from various ministries and others formed "Ichinokai," a group gathering around Mr. Ozawa, who was a powerful politician from the leading party. The group is now inactive, but was an organization that would benefit both high-ranking officials from the MPT that wanted to become the first-class ministry and Mr. Ozawa who wanted to establish his supremacy over Kasumigaseki.

Mr. Nonaka and others counterattacked quickly and to the point. To begin with, they installed Shun Oide, a Lower House Dietman from the SDPJ and a former

member of Japan Postal Workers' Union, as minister of the MPT. By doing so, they protected the LDP's zoku-Dietmen from being exposed to the fore. They, then, launched attacks.

The LDP-SDPJ Coalition Waited Patiently for the "Time for Revenge"

At the LDP's divisional and research committee meetings, they [the LDP's zoku-Dietmen] said, with full expectations of being heard by these ministries: "In cooperation with the former coalition, the Ministry of Transport [MOT] and the MPT spearheaded the anti-LDP movement. The MITI cannot escape the blame, either." They invited high-ranking bureaucrats to restaurants and threatened them directly. Faced with these attacks, the "new zoku-Dietmen's group," which Mr. Ozawa tried to nurture gradually, began to disintegrate. With a sense of crisis, Mr. Ozawa and others gathered MPT bureaucrats, who were inclined to leave the group, and urged them to be steadfast. In its 30 November issue, Mainichi Shimbun described some scenes from these "threats." The description falls short of truth, but it conveys a sense of reality. The following are some excerpts from the article:

On 15 November, the "Kaikaku [Reform]," one of the opposition parties' groups, held a study meeting of the "Dietmen's League for Promotion of the Information Industry" in a conference room in the Lower House Members' Office Building. Following introductory remarks on multimedia plans by the Ministry of Construction, the MOT, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Fishery Agency, Dietman Tanabe from the Shinseito made a comment first: "Do you know how much it will cost to carry out your plans? It is all right to have competition among governmental offices, but who is going to take a leadership role? If these plans are implemented individually, they will not see the results even in one hundred years."

A series of comments from Dietmen followed: "Depending on localities, utility tunnels (for fiber optics cables) are not necessary. Tubing pipes may be enough. I want you to carry out your plans as swiftly as possible."

"Your plans lack the vision of nurturing new industries and creating employment."

In closing, Mr. Iwao Matsuda stated: "Why did we begin this Dietmen's League? Because, under the current condition of our government, building of optical fiber networks will not progress well. We need to redefine the sphere of influence of each governmental agency."

The meeting clearly exposed the sense of opposition against the coalition government of the LDP, the SDPJ, and the Sakigake.

It followed the "Ozawa-style" tactics to prevent the former coalition's Dietmen from breaking up. Gain information with threats, and threat with the information obtained. Subjected to this kind of chain reaction,

the incumbent bureaucrats were caught by the hands of the Shinseito. But, the change of administration created a mechanism like watermarks, exposing these bureaucrats.

MPT Minister Oide consulted on various issues with Home Affairs Minister Nonaka, who is a strong character among the LDP's zoku-Dietmen of the MPT. Within an hour after the end of the meeting, the threats to the ministries and the agency by the Shinseito's Dietmen were communicated to Minister Nonaka.

The LDP-SDPJ coalition is superior in any kind of information war, and has been waiting for the time for revenge. Without doubt, its target for revenge is Mr. Ozawa. In relation to the MPT, the LDP has been waiting quietly and patiently for the time to ripen. Ever since the formation of the Hosokawa administration, Mr. Ozawa and the group of his close associates have overstrained themselves in pursuing their goal. They left various footprints behind them. With a deep-seated desire for revenge, the LDP's top executives would never miss these footprints.

An MITI Bureaucrat Says, "NEC's Era Is Over"

Building a Japanese version of superhighway will cost a tremendous amount of money. It will cost Y53 trillion for fiber optics cables, and additional Y42 trillion to bury these cables underground. Construction will be done mainly by private companies, including cable television (CATV) operators and telecommunications companies. Therefore, various forms of deregulation, such as interest-free loans and preferential tax treatments for these companies, will be necessary. Unless the networks are broad-based, involving local self-governing bodies, the government's blue print will not work.

Let me explain a little bit about the multimedia. Owing to the rapid progress in computer technologies, high-powered personal computers began to be introduced into the home environment. In the past, voice and image for television broadcasting were not digitized. But, digitizing can convert all images into electronic signals. Then, with optical-fiber circuits and digital converters, a vast amount of information, including moving pictures, can be processed at high speed at home. Also, the progress in interactive communications technologies can make it simple and easy to access videos on demand (VOD) and television telephones as well as to do shopping through television. Major changes in lifestyle—such as working at home and taking lectures at home—will be introduced into the society.

And, in the area of leisure activities, a machine that lets us enjoy a virtual reality at home, rather than at a conventional movie theater, will be invented. Personal computers have already begun to spread rapidly in Japan; they have already been introduced into school curriculum.

But, central processing units for these personal computers are all made in the United States. Most personal

computers are equipped with the products made by Intel, a U.S. company. The others use products made by IBM; these are Macintosh computers sold by Apple Computer, Inc. Even NEC, which is unrivaled in Japan, uses Intel's products as central processing units for its computers. By combining the name of Microsoft's product [Windows] and Intel, the OS [operating system] that runs a personal computer has been called as the "strongest WINTEL [Windows-Intel] alliance." It is a sad situation for Japan's engineers, but this WINTEL alliance is manufacturing personal computers at low costs by employing cheap labor in Taiwan, China, and other Southeast Asian countries, beginning to hit the Japanese market, which has a potential for rapid growth from now on. An executive official at the MITI does not try to hide his true feeling. He says, "NEC's era is over. We are now in the era of Windows-based machines."

In the United States, it is not Vice-President Gore's slogan that propelled the building of information highway. Through the widespread use of personal computers and the development of on-line communications among PC users, the Internet was developed; this is being used now by more than 20 million people in more than 150 countries and regions in the world. This, as well, has been nurtured by hobbyists who use personal computers. If a national strategy was used to try nurturing all this, PC users would have opposed it, resulting in less progress in this area.

In Japan, personal computers were initially introduced into office as word processors. This is a major difference from the situation in the United States. There is not much need for households to have word processors. The reason why the aspect of communications was neglected is that because of regulation, [on-line] communications were too expensive.

If politicians had a sense of crisis over the current situation and tried to overcome this by cooperating with bureaucrats, they should not be blamed. But, if bureaucrats don't have this kind of a foresight, the fall of Japan will come much sooner. But, the problem is that behind all this development, there has been an on-going battle over new rights and interests and authority.

A "Craze Over Multimedia"

For example, there is an issue of splitting up NTT. In late September, interested Dietmen from the LDP formed a "Research Forum on the Issue of NTT," whose aim was to apply pressure on the Japan Telecommunications Workers' Union [JTWU] by having debates on the issue of splitting up NTT. This splitting up of NTT became a political issue in 1990. But, because of opposition against the split-up within the government, a final decision was postponed for five years until the end of the fiscal year 1995. Using such movements as the one at the Research Forum, the LDP tried to change the labor union's inclination away from the NFP. In conjunction with the issue of increasing telephone rates, NTT was

cornered in a difficult situation. In the end, a reconciliatory meeting was held between the LDP's Vice President Obuchi and Chairman Kajimoto of the JTWU, and averted a crash. But, among labor unions that are supportive of the SDPJ, the JTWU, along with Japan Postal Workers' Union, is still taking a position that is in line most closely with Mr. Ozawa's.

The pressure applied by Chairman Kajimoto and others had an effect of reducing the power of the New Democratic Alliance [NDA]. Chairman Sadao Yamahana of the NDA was rumored within the LDP to "be totally vulnerable to Ozawa" because of his relationship with Ozawa during the time of the non-LDP alliance. Therefore, many people voiced their worry that [Yamahana] would topple the Murayama administration and leave his party. After the pressure was applied on NTT, however, everything quieted down. In December, NTT applied again to the MPT for a rate increase. This move is also believed by some as a result of endorsement by the LDP's executives in appreciation of the JTWU's change in its policy stance.

In fact, there remain many mysteries about the areas of telecommunications and multimedia, which are the most important industries for Japan's future, requiring heavy allocation of the nation's budget. This is because there still exists the vestige of NTT's past as a national enterprise along with the Japan Tobacco & Salt Public Corporation. NTT is too big to promote free competition; it is so big that survival of other competing firms cannot be guaranteed. But, we cannot flatly deny a worry expressed by NTT's executives: Without a company of NTT's size, we may not be able to compete against huge foreign corporations entering the Japanese market.

Price comparison here and abroad, including the United States, still shows a big price differential in personal computers. The problem certainly lies in Japan's complex distribution system. But, the condition of the market that ignores users' interests was also created by NEC's monopoly in the past. Apple Computer, Inc., which is struggling in the U.S. market, is continuing to grow rapidly in the Japanese market at present. It is true that companies grow under such a competitive environment. Aiwa relocated its manufacturing plants to Asia so as to utilize the cheap labor there and to import its products back into Japan. It began to see good results from this strategy. Companies will continue to strive to make profits. As Aiwa's efforts tend to accelerate the hollowing of Japan's industries, it is normally the case that a national policy doesn't mesh with the profit maximization principle of a company. Under such an environment, it is politicians' responsibility to manage the nation by drawing up a blue print for the 21st century. During this period of crucially important time when it is necessary to transform Japan's strategic industrial structure, it is very sad to see that politicians are not drawing blue prints—rather, they are interested only in securing their shares of rights and interests from bureaucrats. A "craze over multimedia" has just begun. As

concrete plans are gradually introduced by the MPT, the MITI, and others in the future, this feverish craze will most likely intensify.

But, Japan has no time for such leisurely progress. In the future, it may find itself in a situation where "it has lost its competitiveness with other countries." When that happens, those politicians who have fought for their own rights and interests will not take responsibility. The time has come for eligible voters to judge the situation calmly and cast their votes at the first election under the small constituency system for the lower house.

Roundtable Discussion on Unmanned Vehicles

OW0604062495 Tokyo BOEI GIJUTSU JANARU in Japanese Jan 95 pp 8-23

[Roundtable discussion among Shigeo Hirose, professor, Mechanics and Space Science Faculty, School of Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology; Yoji Asano, Director, 4th Research Center, Technical Research and Development Institute (TRDI), Defense Agency; Yoshiki Shinoda, Director, 4th Equipment and Materials Laboratory, 1st Department, 4th Research Center, TRDI; Kotaro Kamei, Department Chief of Electromagnetic Systems Technology, Hino Plant, Toshiba Corp., and former Director of Research, GSDF Officer's Academy; Kumio Kotaki, advisor to Japan Radio Co., former Director of the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Yokosuka Repair Facility; Masanao Wada, Director, Planning Office, Aerospace Division, Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI); Tetsuo Torii, Research Director, Technology Laboratory, Special-Purpose Equipment Division, Komatsu Ltd.; Kiichi Kobayashi, chief of the R&D Department, Sagami Works of Mitsubishi Heavy Industry; and Izumi Tomita, chairman of the Defense Technology Foundation, on 31 October 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tomita] For our discussion today, I would like to ask Director Asano of TRDI's 4th Research Center to moderate. The main topic will be a robotics roundtable, centering on Professor Hirose. Mr. Asano, will you start us out?

[Asano] Today I would like to ask the views of each of you on future R&D and operation of defense robots, development of which is expected in the 21st century, and to bring out some of the technical tasks involved in their realization. That is our main theme, but I would be happy to hear enjoyable and instructive stories even if they're a little off the point. I apologize for being the first one to speak, but there may be some who are not aware of the background of defense robot R&D, so let me explain that. First of all, we [TRDI] do not have a long history of research in actual robotics. Just 4 years ago, in 1991, we started out with one researcher and one manager. Now we have seven researchers, one manager, and ten other cooperating researchers from your companies. As to why the Defense Agency has to get involved when there is so much private sector technology, it is just that

defense has its own needs. That is reasonable. In deciding to begin research to meet those needs, even though we did not have many specific requests from the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), we looked at the technology and made suggestions to the operators regarding what appeared possible in three or four years. Since it wouldn't do for the engineers to come up with useless applications, we sought the views of SDF officers who were users. My personal impression, however, was that they gave us their personal, widely scattered views, as though a broad spectrum of things from the world of science fiction could be automated overnight. The users did not seem to really understand the technology of robotics, so we started building things to demonstrate, to show the forces what we meant by robots. This is an exaggeration, but we joke that robots are very popular with the young people, and it is because excellent young people have come around that we have as many researchers as we do. We are looking for military applications, but we have begun to extend our view to things that move outdoors under their own control, or that can take themselves across rough terrain under all weather conditions. Complete autonomy will be a long-term topic, I think, but we have begun research with the idea that what becomes possible can be tied into actual equipment. So, that is the perspective from which we began our research. The reason I hope to get lots of good suggestions from you is that the idea of a robot that can go through rough terrain under its own control is not foreign to the private sector. We are aware that the private sector has done a great deal of research on very advanced robots, moving from factory automation to robots outside the factory, whether for use as construction machinery or for work in hostile environments like outer space or fighting fires. We have been shown much of your data. You have joined us in research on robots that move outdoors. Now I would like the professor to talk to us about the status of this field, its technical difficulties, and the key points and direction of research.

[Hirose] Just today I was reading about robots of the future in the New Year's issue of TRIGGER, and it said, as you just did, that the direction research has taken is to leave the factory and move outside. Indoor robots up to now have done repetitive work of the "teach-in, play back" type; there is an immense, qualitative difference between them and the future robots that will move outdoors. They will need power and mechanisms for movement, sensors for three-dimensional awareness of an indefinite environment, as well as intelligence for mobility. It is easy for us to move around in the field, but it is actually a tremendous task. In order to develop technology for that sort of mobile robot, it is essential that we build a fundamental, base machine that anyone can operate and that can move through rough terrain. Robot engineering up till now has been a matter of building arms as mechanisms to make industrial robots. We want to extend robotics to the field of mobility. If we can build a base machine for a mobile robot, take it outdoors and get it to move around freely, then we can

accelerate research. Although there are a number of different technical aspects, but we are focusing research efforts on how to improve the mechanism's ground response as a vehicle, and its transport performance. There will be many problems with other parts, but they will not matter if the mechanism is no good, so research is taking the direction of building an optimal mechanism, then refining it with better sensors and intelligence.

[Asano] From what you say about outdoor robots, I see you advocate the stance that we need to take care of the central mechanism first, and then think about three-dimensional information perception, or information control.

[Hirose] That is right. For example, a story about space development is a classic example. The Soviet Union had a six-wheeled Mars explorer vehicle called Marshot that operated almost without external control, and had excellent ground adaptability. America's Rover was supposed to have unusual AI [artificial intelligence] technology, and it moved into rough terrain without it. That makes you wonder just what kind of control technology is needed to overcome small obstacles. Low energy consumption and wheels with reliable traction are things that can be realized only in the design of the mechanism. Sensors and intelligence are essential, of course, but the most important thing is a well thought out mechanism design.

[Shinoda] Our laboratory has also noticed what the professor mentioned.

Even though we have made every effort to use intelligence to avoid obstacles, we have decided the best way is to have the machine handle the things that can be handled mechanically, and use intelligence to avoid the things that cannot. That way we have come up with a number of ideas for traveling across rough terrain.

[Hirose] Exactly. If you're talking about reliability, that is the most certain course.

Basic Thinking on Robot Design

[Asano] I know you manufacturers are working to meet private sector demand, not just defense needs, so I suppose when you hear this kind of talk, you say, "Well, my company has taken a little different approach."

[Wada] KHI is proud to be a pioneer, in Japan, if industrial robots are what can be called universal automation equipment. We have put our effort into the mechanism, electronic controls, and recently into artificial intelligence as well. And with that technical background as a foundation, we are active in research to meet the need for defense equipment that requires less energy and fewer personnel.

Since I joined KHI, by the way, I have concentrated on the control field. I say control, but I am an electrician so I mean electronic or electrical controls. The robots we

are talking about fit with that experience, but there is the problem of the object of control. Basic performance is constrained by the characteristics of that object; that puts limits on the controller, including intelligent control, no matter how much effort he puts into the control aspect. In that sense, I agree completely with professor Hirose's comment that the best way is to do a good job on the mechanism first, and then base the controller on that.

[Hirose] I taught control engineering at the college. In control engineering, we talk about the "Horse Rider theory of control engineering" [translator's note: a humorous reference to the theory that Japan was first unified by mounted warriors from the Asian continent]. That is, we go into this field with the idea that control is not the essence itself, but rather something that shows up, stirs things around, and produces something new. We put a lot of thought into control, but it does not work to emphasize development of control at the expense of the mechanism. There has to be a good mechanism first. Another example of the importance of mechanical design is antenna deployment on satellites. I recently examined a doctoral thesis on improving the reliability of mechanical systems, but when I asked about the content of the research, the candidate had done a really precise analysis in order to improve reliability, but the mechanism was no good at all. What is the point of trying to patch up a faulty mechanical design; with a different mechanism, there would be no need for his fine analysis. I have noticed a lot of that sort of thing in Japan lately. That is, every company has a few engineers who dislike machine design, but I think they are becoming more numerous as a group. On the other hand, the presence of Mathematica and other analytical tools makes it easy to do amazing analyses, and so people are flocking to that part of the job. And so I am worried that only the means of analysis are improving, and we are losing the power to seek what is essential.

[Torii] I am very much in agreement with what professor Hirose says about machine design, and I also sense that engineers have gotten really weak at coming up with mechanical concepts for actual devices.

Now, the most important kind of product we build at Komatsu is earth-moving construction equipment, and for a long time we have put a lot of effort into design and fabrication of such equipment. There are thousands of variations in the soil quality that have to be handled, and we haven't been able to make a machine that can handle them all; we end up thinking something good will be possible for this case or that. So, I fully understand the importance of making the mechanism the basis, as the professor says, but no conceivable structure can do it all. What I am trying to say is that you need to look at the purpose and features suited to that, although some degree of general utility is also necessary. Everyone can propose various mechanisms, but none of them will score 100 percent. The professor has proposed a number of multipurpose robots, and I know they are good

proposals, but I imagine there will still be some difficulty in regard to the basis for selection. As one more example, the 4th Research Center is now developing a crawler with an unprecedented structure. It has exceptional ability to overcome obstacles, but because the structure is biased in that direction, there are some structural weaknesses in other areas. When you are concentrating on one area, weaknesses develop in other areas. In terms of function, something that is very good in sandy soil may not be adequate on a hard surface or soil with a high moisture content. Since it is difficult to choose just what function is best, we have to devise a number of different structures and do some research on what works in practice.

[Hirose] That is right. If you ask if there are any definitive standards or ideas for making judgments, the answer is no. Since there are not, the only option now is to try a lot of things. We live in a world where not much has been tried, so I think our job now is to check out a variety of configurations, such as motion by walking, or highly articulated snake-like motion, or crawlers or wheels or whatever, and get a concrete understanding of their functionality and drawbacks. If you read the history of the progress of aircraft since they were first developed, you will see that really a lot of different types were built. I used to wonder why so many varieties were built when they all did the same thing, but of course that is another field where a slight change in constraint conditions can mean a drastic change of configuration for some portions of the structural design. That is something I have come to realize lately.

[Asano] It really would not be possible with just one.

[Kobayashi] We have also built a number of different movement mechanisms. It appears at first that all sorts of different mechanisms for walking around would be possible, but when you try to go somewhere, many of them really do not work as expected. With configurations using legs, individual parts may have been available for some time, but unexpected problems come up. Breakage will occur in spots that are unthinkable under our earlier understanding, or movement is unnatural, so we have to rebuild. Each time that happens, we give a lot of thought to what would be a logical mechanism and how it should be controlled. Manipulators have a long history, and theory and practice match. When it comes to moving around, however, the theory often does not work, and we resort to repeated trial and error. I think it is necessary to study the theoretical aspects of what structural configuration is best and what gait is most logical. In reality, however, we often build something and then think about it, and it is always a headache.

[Hirose] It is the same for all of us. Intuitively we can feel that something is right, but until it has some substance, the image cannot progress further. So we build it and see what happens. And in the process of making it actually move, we learn a lot. I have accumulated quite a number of papers on controlling the gait of quadruped walking

robots, and I think control always became possible after the mechanism was built. So if we are going to develop new strut wheels or something, we should do some skillful designing before we start to feel it is the right one.

[Asano] Moving around has a long history, including the use of round wheels and the failure of wheels on rough terrain. You must have stories of ways that are completely new, difficult, and different.

[Hirose] Wheeled movement seems simple. Although four-wheeled vehicles with new designs have been built as rovers for planetary exploration, they have all had extremely limited configurations so far. And so, I think there are still quite a few new designs yet to come.

The Dream of Science Fiction Robots

[Asano] Looking just at the defense field, we have also sorts of images of how to move around. What are your thoughts?

[Kamei] When you speak of using robots for defense, it is a matter of surrogate soldiers mixing in with real soldiers and fighting alongside them. Since that has not been done in the past, starting to do it will bewilder the soldiers. And so, our primary objective is to make robots the soldiers can use as they please. In other words, we want "robots the soldiers will care for." Accordingly, it would be extremely effective to accommodate the needs of the user side at the initial stage of research and development. Since the users include infantry, tanks and artillery, those needs are very diverse. So when Director Asano speaks of the engineering side proposing to the user side what sort of thing can be done, it seems like a pat on the back to brace them up. With the end of the Cold War, it seems that Japan's perception of a threat has slackened, but if you ask the users, they still have requests that we do this or that. In the field of defense robot development, more than any other, I hope that the views of the user side and the engineering side will be closely coordinated.

[Asano] Mr. Kotaki, your specialty is a little different, but what are your views on this matter of mechanisms and moving around?

[Kotaki] You can think of robot weapons having gotten their start when torpedoes appeared at the end of the 19th century. The efficacy of torpedoes in combat was recognized, and efforts to improve their capabilities continued; Japan's Imperial Navy shocked the world with the torpedoes it used on the Pacific front. They used compressed oxygen and petroleum for power, and with rudimentary controls in an age before computers, they were a highly perfected system. The forces do not have any objection to bringing in automated equipment, but a number of problems arise when you try to incorporate it place of men. Any military force would be embroiled in controversy if computerized command and control systems were introduced and the argument were made that commanders had become unnecessary.

People are central to units and their operations, and the greatest responsibility of commanders is to see that training is perfected; it is impossible to envision a unit in which robots have intervened. RPV's (remotely piloted vehicles) were developed along with missiles, but where missiles are simply an extrapolation of artillery, RPV's have a flexibility that can be applied to a variety of missions. They are viewed with hostility by pilots, who are the elite of the military community, since an RPV could withstand more G's (acceleration) than a manned aircraft in a dogfight. The first of the RPV's flew 2,000 photo reconnaissance sorties for the US forces in the Vietnam War.

During the Gulf War in the Middle East, a quarter century after Vietnam, US and French forces deployed unmanned aircraft (now called UAV's—Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) to combat units. Competition between pilots and unmanned vehicles is considered ridiculous now, and unmanned weapons of this sort are gradually gaining recognition.

Other unmanned weapons include the wheeled vehicles (UGV's—Unmanned Ground Vehicles) which are today's topic and submersible vehicles (UUV's—Unmanned Underwater Vehicle's). UUV's are used in ASW (anti-submarine warfare), and will be useful in places like harbors and straits where submarines are the most vulnerable. The argument that this would allow a considerable reduction in the number of anti-submarine patrol boats and aircraft was made in the Cold War period.

With the end of the Cold War, the United States reorganized DARPA [the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency], which had been the promoter of unmanned weapons, into ARPA, and has been active in conversion of defense technology to dual-use technology, and in shared access with private-sector technology. At the same time, the fighting forces are undergoing manpower reductions. There were many friendly fire incidents in the Gulf War. Of all the US personnel killed (148), a quarter (35) were by allies. Concentrated local fire using precision weapons necessarily creates battlefields with a high energy density, and the trend in the United States and Europe now is toward development of technology for an unmanned battlefield, from which highly vulnerable human soldiers have been excluded.

[Hirose] To have a discussion, we need a common perception of just what constitutes a robot. Some may take the position that it is a supermachine that replaces humans, but that is not how I look at it. We do not have a firm foundation for that yet; it may take another 100 or 200 years. Therefore, even though I use the word "robot," I am talking about ordinary machines with a higher level of automation. In science fiction, you often see scenes of robots in human form operating ordinary machines, as in an interesting scene in the movie, *Total Recall*. Arnold Schwarzenegger rode in a taxi driven by a robot; it said silly things and was not too bright, but it

did manage to drive. That robot had eyes, and enough intelligence to recognize and respond. It will be 100 years or so before that sort of thing is possible. The automobile that the robot drove, on the other hand, was not much different from today's cars. That makes you wonder just what the engineers at Nissan and Toyota were up to during those 100 years (laughter). The world will not necessarily take that direction. Rather than take the trouble to design a robot in human form to sit in an automobile, why not just incorporate that intelligence into the vehicle itself? That way you can fill the car with passengers, with one more in what would have been the driver's seat. In short, the future prospect is in the direction of the machine itself making steady progress toward robotics. In other words, rather than looking for an immediate anthropomorphic replacement for humans, we should look further into the future when machines have advanced to a robotic state of greater automation and autonomy.

[Torii] The companies have one other hope, which is that the present research will provide an opening such that technology for outdoor movement over rough terrain can be applied to civilian vehicles. In one sense, it would be a little too much of a challenge for the private sector to suddenly invest in research on outdoor movement, but in another sense it is a good chance. To start with, we do not know what to expect, since this research is supposed to be for defense use. I certainly agree with Mr. Kamei's comment on the necessity of close dialogue between the users and the engineers. On the other hand, I differ a little from the professor on the point of being willing to try anything, but I know that if we do not do something, there will be no outcome and no second step. I think that the idea of trying something and learning from the experience is the easy way to conduct research. In other words, I think it is not so much a matter of it being necessary to suddenly turn this robot into standard equipment for this or that reason, as a matter of forming a consensus among those who will study and those who will pay about trying to demonstrate this aspect of technology, and going forward from there.

[Kobayashi] Like the professor was talking about in the story about driving the taxi, the machines themselves are changing. For example, even tanks now have automated, mechanized functions. Those that can be given over to machines, such as automatic loading, are being mechanized. Once it is understood that ammunition can be handled by machine, the possibility of ammunition loading robot emerges as the next step. Similarly, a robot for clearing of land mines does not have to come about suddenly in final form; there is also the approach of starting with what is already possible, and working on the difficult points. Mr. Kamei said it was necessary to set up milestones and stick to them, but I think another approach is to hold talks with users in the periphery of current equipment about subsequent applications, then mechanize functions by applying robotics technology.

[Asano] This is a little different subject, but a while ago there was mention of the situation in places like the

United States, not just in Japan, so let me ask about the situation in the United States. How do Japan and the United States compare in terms of incorporation into research in the private sector and universities? Let's start with the professor.

[Hirose] We mentioned DARPA in regard to military applications. Back in 1985 or so a six-legged ASV (Adaptive Suspension Vehicle) was built at Ohio State University with DARPA funding. My ideas on leg design were used in that.

Funding for that research was cut off later, so it did not go any further, but CMU [Carnegie-Mellon University] did ALV (Autonomous Land Vehicle) research and research on a six-legged walking machine called the Ambler. Those are for space applications, but an eight-legged machine to walk in volcanoes, called Dante, has been developed as well. There has been research of this sort on various new configurations for traversing rough terrain. So far, however, these just show possibilities. Nothing really practical has been brought together yet. Besides these, what looks like an armored car mounted with a manipulator for investigating explosives has been developed in Europe, but I do not think that is a real advance.

[Asano] Since we have gotten this sort of start, we should stick with it and not slow down. It is not just us, of course—we need the support of companies and universities—so I hope it does not sound presumptuous to say the timing is right just now. Please tell us what you've learned from the situation abroad by links with their companies. It may be difficult for you to speak, though, since there are many secret areas within private-sector demand.

[Kamei] I read a report five or six years ago that was prepared by people who took part in JAST (a study group of Japanese involved in research on weapons and ammunition and representatives of the United States military and manufacturers, which exchanges views during annual visits). There was one statement by an American company official to the effect that "the military wants a weapon like a tank that can be operated unmanned, but development of that technology is really difficult." At that time I was looking for ways to introduce robots into the front line of ordinary science (I had already sought the views of engineers within Japan), so that statement was very helpful; it showed me one of the things I had been looking for.

The United States military, unlike Japan, has doctrine, organization, and equipment focused on offensive tactics. You will see that immediately if you think about Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. They aim for equipment that can be used on unknown, varied terrain. The SDF, on the other hand, does not plan to fight outside Japan, and only has to think about to meet and destroy the aggressor in well-known places. Such places are all over.

Since the engineers have said it will still take some time to produce a good answer for development of technology to move fighting vehicles across rough terrain, we should specify a concept of operations that is meaningful in present operations and will be meaningful in the event of technological improvements when extrapolated into the future. Even if the vehicle was stopped, it could stretch out optical fiber and supply information from one or two kilometers further along. If we could add human intelligence, which is the most difficult point, the vehicle could automatically operate terminal devices to open fire on the basis of software prepared in advance. We could get by without the ability to travel across rough terrain. That was my reaction.

When the time comes to incorporate defense robots into the equipment of the GSDF of the future, it will be within the tight framework of the present budget system, so they will not be added to the budget unless their concept of operations is clearly defined. It just will not do to say, "technology has developed to this point, and so we would like to have this kind of robot." In defining the concept of operations, I think it is important to divide the milestones of robot development into three stages (first, second and third generation robots) and to involve a lot of people (including budget people, not just users and engineers) to give the project a good image.

What will separate the generations of robots is technology." My personal view is that the technology with the most vital effect will be (1) recognition, (2) passage over rough terrain, (3) compact drive energy, (4) judgment and (5) response control.

The first generation of robots could be built by assembling a number of seasoned technologies in response to operational needs. Operationally, only a small part of combat technology has been roboticized, and so the users are spinning their wheels until the advent of the portions they want to have roboticized. The second generation of robots could be built using both seasoned technology and, once developed, technology that is a little more of a stretch (related to recognition, passage over rough terrain, and compact drive energy). The third generation robots should realize what now is a technological dream of being able to make automatic decisions, respond to changes by the enemy or in the environment, and control our responses by themselves.

A robot that can pass over rough terrain under its own control, on which the 4th Research Center and others are now working, can be taken as a second generation robot. Since it will still take a while to realize the technology for the independent crossing of rough terrain or that of automatic recognition, we should like to achieve first-generation robots such that, for example, users could defend key points without going out on the battlefield unnecessarily—a system that could convey information from sensors back to the rear by optical fiber, where a human would recognize a target within that information and arm a buried weapon that would subsequently aim and fire automatically.

[Asano] In our discussion today, professor Hirose raised the question of just what a robot is, and I have gotten the feeling from the comments of Mr. Kotaki and Mr. Kamei that there are individual images in the image of robots. I suspect that if I asked for a definition, there would be a variety of responses. Since robots got their start in the world of science fiction, it is inevitable that everyone would have his own image, with all sorts of differences. Nevertheless, a little while ago the issue of specific applications was raised, and it was suggested that robots could be thought of as advanced machinery. I think that may well be the case—if so, the first generation and second generation robots Mr. Kamei spoke of can both be looked at the same way. We may have different ideas on that point. I would like to hear those of Director Shinoda, who leads the laboratory responsible for this.

[Shinoda] We certainly have heard a variety of requests and expectations from various users, but as Mr. Kamei said, nothing really concrete has come up.

And as Director Asano said, we try to stretch beyond present technology and build models of "what should be possible." Right now we are working on something called AMAP (Autonomous Mobile All-purpose Platform). It is not entirely autonomous. What we are researching is rough terrain and moving around, after which we will go on to environmental recognition and overall control, with the result being something that moves around with feedback on its footing. Since there will be human intervention in the process, we are looking at a robot somewhere between Mr. Kamei's first and second generations. Research that continues on to the third generation is in the future; for now we are trying for something relatively realistic. We want to show the results to the users, then work with them to make it into something better. The line of research our laboratory is pursuing is a combination of research that gives priority to needs and research that gives priority to seeds.

Japan's Robot Technology

[Asano] Thinking differs on the definition of a robot, and the question of what to expect from robots must also depend on one's position and experience. We have had some discussion of the major technical tasks involved, but now I would like to ask the company side to say a little on what expectations they have on this issue, and on their expectations of the government and the users.

[Wada] Our discussion of technical tasks has centered on the mechanism, professor Hirose's specialty, but if we are seeking automated passage over rough terrain, KHI's view is that movement through the environment is not comparable with outer space. We are concentrating our research on recognition of rough terrain and recognition of the environment. The 4th Research Center's topic of autonomous transit of rough terrain will have a great ripple effect on mechanisms, in the sense that it will motivate and accelerate that research. So I said that with such a system, the front line units would be satisfied, and engineers could go ahead with research to get control of

the next two challenges, which are automatic recognition and technology for autonomous movement, and then convert fixed systems that have been used a great deal in the defense arena into mobile systems as defense equipment. Several years have passed since then, but I do not think there has been much change in the course taken by the advanced countries of the world. From that perspective, I think that if we go along in the direction the director mentioned earlier, we certainly will not be left behind.

Status of Battlefield Robots

[Asano] The one who has looked into matters in the US military most recently is Director Shinoda, who went to the United States in 1993. Please tell us what you found.

[Shinoda] It was almost exactly a year ago, for two weeks at the end of October and beginning of November. In two weeks I visited 14 places, which meant flying somewhere almost every day. And then a robot team from the United States came here for 10 days last July. On the whole, I got a good understanding of the latest status of what the US military is doing. In the 1980's, there were a number of research institutions working on robotics, as well as each service—the Air Force had a project, the Navy had one, and the Army had several. But that inevitably required money, so as the 1990's approached and DARPA changed to ARPA, ARPA tried to unify everything in one project and demonstrate all the technologies together. That succeeded in 1992.

As for what the project was—Japan is doing a lot of research on locomotion now, but the United States is not studying that at all. They put all sorts of sensors on something like a jeep and operated it by remote control to discover the enemy and send back information. This DEMO-1 was a success in that it was the convergence of a number of things that had been done up to that point. Subsequent research will be done on two systems; one of them, which happened to be just what I had been thinking about, was seeds-oriented research. That is, it is research to bring a steady increase in technological power. That program is called DEMO-2. The other system is a battlefield robot (Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle) to meet the specific demand that the fruits of DEMO-1 actually be applied to equipment for the Army or Marines. The robot team that came here had members who had worked on that. It was a matter of remote operation of a small vehicle, tethered with optical fiber, that could search for, detect, recognize and target the enemy. Even in this, there was no research on locomotion. The basic concept was to use an existing vehicle, and only research the sensors to be mounted on it and related software. It is nearly finished now, and they are building a dozen or so each for the Army and Marine Corps, so they can operate them and give their opinions. Since then, DEMO-2 has been going on at the Army's research institute, as a government and private combined project in advanced technology, with the idea of showing that the United States is on the leading edge,

ahead of Japan. This DEMO-2 program is not limited to the Army, Air Force and Marines, but has the cooperation of the Department of Energy and the Department of Transportation, which is equivalent to Japan's Ministry of Transport. Its goal is something that can travel essentially autonomously. Following research on sensors on a semi-autonomous basis, they will go on to research to bring about a next-generation robot (unmanned vehicle). When the robot team came last July, they had made considerable progress in that direction. There were to be three steps (DEMO-A, DEMO-B and DEMO-C) on the way to DEMO-2, and then DEMO-2 itself. They have completed DEMO-A and DEMO-B, and are now at the stage of working on DEMO-C. That is more or less the status there now. There is a difference of scale between Japan and the United States, but we have basically the same thinking in taking a two-pronged approach, first working on seeds-oriented advanced technology, and then research to apply that to needs.

[Asano] This may be a little fanciful, but Mr. Kotaki just mentioned going into dangerous situations with machines instead of men, or in other words, moving from UAV's to UGV's. What came to my mind on hearing this was that a high-mobility vehicle, not a ground-walker, was the thing to use for dangerous missions like reconnaissance. Reconnaissance and unmanned operation may become the main topic later, though. I have heard about this sort of thing in U.S. universities, various research institutes and companies like Martin Marietta, so I think there must be a number of different versions there, but I do not know any details.

[Kamei] I thought the comments on DEMO-1 and DEMO-2 were very interesting in connection with locomotion. As one who promotes development, I would like to know how DEMO-1 and DEMO-2 are evaluated. This activity in the United States should be good reference material for us, but I know the manufacturers assembled here today have a team that has worked for years on a robots that can move over rough terrain on four or eight legs, determine the location of mines in a mine field, and destroy them. I do not think the DEMO series has anything like that, but mines are the biggest danger for those engaging the enemy, and I hope robots can solve the problem somehow. Japan has its own way of fighting. We have to learn from the knowledge of militarily advanced countries, but I think the most important point in our future development is to establish our way of fighting first. We should also use the things of other countries as a check. That is because Japan has to develop real strength in this area.

[Shinoda] As Mr. Kamei says, the United States uses units to press the attack, and so it decides where it is going. "If we can only go this far..." That is not a consideration with terrain like Japan's. Locomotion is very important to Japan. If it is a matter of avoiding obstacles, the United States avoids obstacles too, but it does not have to go where it cannot go. It does the rest by attacking with greater force, eliminating the obstacles

and then sending in the robots. Probably that is what our military would want if we were to sum up their demands. One other thing is that they would like us to make them extremely cheap. Since it will take a lot of money to develop them to point of moving around, and since the United States military budget has also dropped recently, I think the robot team revealed its real views when it said movement by the robot is important, but the budget has not budged.

What Is a Robot To Do?

[Asano] We have had an explanation of the situation in the United States but the overall trend there may not be much different. Of course, they are aiming at something completely different. I think it all comes down to what a robot is expected to do; will you please make your final comments on what is wanted of robots, the prospects for achieving that, and any problems?

[Hirose] The most important thing, as I stated a while ago, is to stick to the basics at first. Adding such things as vision or map generation capabilities will be important afterwards. This is not just technology for seeing; I mean technology that will make organic use of past information. If there's a tree, for example, the back side of it cannot be seen, but we make the assumption that the back is round like the front; we need to develop parts with intelligent vision of that sort. A device that projected a laser beam for three-dimensional measurement of time of flight was built recently; I think that is something that we really have to get included in a general-purpose vision system. Then we'll have to improve the reliability of force sensors, torque sensors, proximity sensors and so on, and add intelligence. Although under present circumstance we want to use them in great numbers, but from the perspective of reliability and price, I think it is better not to use so many. There will eventually be a control portion that depends on how they are used, but at this point there are too many factors that are not understood at all. Steady progress is necessary.

[Asano] There really are many things to be done, and I agree that the problems have to be resolved one by one. I would like you each to make a brief comment on that.

[Kamei] Robots are used for the three D's—dangerous, dirty, and difficult—to avoid danger, contamination and so on, and the private sector has made considerable progress in that direction. SDF applications are the epitome of the three D's. That is a matter of course on the battlefield, where they can go a week without a bath, and they can stand guard in complete darkness. And there is plenty of dirt. Most important, however, is to minimize danger. How to eliminate the danger part of the three D's has to be the most core consideration. When the private sector talks about dirty and difficult, the military says, "we can pull on some coveralls and do it ourselves." But they say, "there's no need for extra danger." It is become clear that some young troops do not like that attitude, so it may need extra emphasis.

Besides, in wartime the question is how are we going to survive and get a larger number of the enemy. That ratio is all there is to it. The function of getting the enemy has gotten extremely good. Firing and strike accuracy are good. And while we are trying to do that, the enemy will be doing the same to us, and survival will be the key requirement. We may not have thought that much about it till now, but we have to do more and more planning on how to survive. Otherwise, our fighting efficiency will drop markedly. There is a terrific difference between the significance of the death in battle of one soldier and that of the destruction of one set of robot equipment. It has become important to deploy soldiers to places where they will not have to perform their missions unless they actually are soldiers. Under current doctrine, when awaiting the enemy we prepare camps in locations where we can survive, and from which we can strike the enemy. If robots are introduced, however, a camp location can be selected from the perspective of how best to strike at the enemy, without regard to survival. This will mean a radical change in the way we fight. If we have all the technology that will require, we should put it to use in operations right away.

In operational terms, there will be limits to the decision-making ability of "the first-generation robot that can be realized at present;" it will just execute a limited range of responses to an approaching enemy, without changing position too much. That could include remote control by a human. There is no real need to be compact, for example, or to have the drive energy to cross rough terrain. If I can briefly explain the protection of infantry troops, it would involve tactical robots that could be placed on uneven ground in our possession two or three kilometers in front of our front-line camp, in positions from which they can observe the sheltered ground opposite, and aim and fire artillery in a timely manner if the enemy approaches. There are limits to recognition technology, but a variety of sensors, optical fibers and display monitors can assist the judgment of soldiers and officers. That judgment will be the basis for artillery that has been implanted in advance to surface, aim, fire, guide, strike and confirm automatically before again sinking below the surface. This sort of technology can be realized if it is a man-machine system using human judgment, and this is what I would like for the front line. When there is greater demand for automatic discrimination, a wider range of systematics, or a mobile version, the engineers may have to delay the on-band-time. But that much can be done for the first generation. There is still concealed or covered ground where camps can be set up one or two kilometers in front of the front-line camp. Enemy activity in this concealed terrain or ground protected by fire from the opposite camp is the greatest concern for the platoon leaders or squad leaders protecting our camp. Things become invisible in the mists in just one or two kilometers. The technology for handling this range with robots is extremely demanding. This was an early operational demand; the GSDF asked for the Kinki Battle Robot four or five years ago and it is still

not ready. The 4th Research Center handled the next version, which has all-weather capability. It is a minefield reconnaissance robot that provides information on concealed positions after the lapse of a few hours. It is to reconnoiter the front edge of the minefield, and report the depth, type, and separation of the mines. I think that is necessary. It is to discover and recognize mines whether they are buried or laid on the surface. Using tactical judgment and present sensor technology, determination of the rough position should be easy. As for whether the platform for the sensors should walk on the surface, jump or fly through the air, operation of a type that flies at low altitude or leaps is under consideration for reasons similar to those just mentioned. Because the level of danger would be extremely high for personnel, who would certainly have to be withdrawn in a battle, the need to roboticize this function is quite high. Also, because of complex variations in the ground surface and susceptibility to influences from diverse media, this is research the Defense Agency has to undertake itself. The next step in clearing the mine field would be to inject destructive energy from a distance; I think a gaseous explosive would be best, but other options are rollers as at present or a mine-clearing plow, or a battlefield robot that can clear mines in all weather conditions from a concealed position by setting explosives in place. This is one of the most dangerous points when making an attack, and it is an extremely great danger. When making an approach march, the advance guard would go first, with an RPV flying above to gather information. If we suppose that the second and subsequent generations of robots will materialize in 10 or 20 years, then of the technologies I mentioned before, we can start accumulating information now on technology for crossing rough terrain, recognition technology, and technology for drive energy and compact size. On the other hand, I think we should await further progress on technologies related to judgment, response and control. And so, aside from changing to first-generation robots, depending on the operation, how would it be to make the overall specification something like "a robot which, within the range of its limited judgment function, autonomously approaches the enemy and fights in response to enemy actions and battlefield conditions?" The United States is working on this now; it is a robot that autonomously discovers and recognizes the enemy, overcomes various obstacles to approach the enemy under cover, and destroys the enemy or prevents it from functioning. Another possibility is an anti-AH [attack helicopter] robot that consists of small bomblets (with wings, adhesive panels and audio sensors) scattered around an area of several kilometers, which would detect the approach of helicopters and automatically fly up, approach the enemy AH, adhere to them and explode. I call these Bee Bombers, after the insects; there are numerous areas of operations where these would be useful. And while there may be other requests when that is possible, I think there will be many users—not just me—who will say, "if something like that is possible, we would like it."

Steady Development of Robot Technology

[Asano] You have made a lot of suggestions. We will try to discuss them with a number of people and move them toward realization. I would like to hear from Mr. Kotaki next.

[Kotaki] I think Mr. Kamei has said all there is to say about intelligent weapons on the battlefield. This may be the same sort of thing, but anti-personnel weapons have become more precise lately, and there is daily progress in that field. The only way to get around that, needless to say, is to use unmanned weapons. There are, for example, many dangers involved in sending divers down for minesweeping, so the flow of technology now is in the direction of active use of unmanned submersibles equipped for detection and disposal of mines.

We could probably give many reasons why there should be further progress on this sort of unmanned weapon. One is the trend toward a smaller population, and there is the three D's or four D's matter that was mentioned earlier. Also, as seen when Officer Takada died in the line of duty in the PKO, Japanese have an extreme reaction toward fatalities—this is somewhat different from the United States or Europe. Based on these tendencies and the national character, I think there will be a number of operational requirements for robot weapons. There are divergent views, however, and we cannot go forward just on the basis of technology. About 10 years ago the U.S. Army was developing a multipurpose RPV called "Aquila." Reading about it in military magazines, I was pleased with its success, but the program was canceled 3 or 4 years ago. The reason was that it hadn't been coordinated with operational requirements. I think it is necessary to start robot weapons from the single soldier position, and then gradually extend them to higher-level, multiple robot command and control (the 1:N issue). That is the approach to take.

[Asano] And finally, I would like to hear any views or wishes from the private sector side.

[Wada] From the viewpoint of manufacturers, there are two directions for thinking about the progress of R&D. One of these is to listen closely to the users, then study that, make proposals, and efficiently develop robots. For example, the field of hazardous work operations is one that companies have paid attention to. As I said before, there is certainly an operational need for some kind of robot to handle situations, such as training without safety devices, that have one drenched with sweat even in Hokkaido in the dead of winter, drawing back and unable to move. I think remote control will be adequate to start with. On the other hand, in order to progress to a higher level we must recognize the need for the private sectors to do research on future prospects, and KHI's research department is taking it up. We are working from those two perspectives.

[Torii] I think the road to making a success of our present research is a long, hard one, but the first big

point is to get everyone to think we have made a good start. Personally, I have noticed that a single robot is not much help and often a number are used together. Therefore I hope that the multi-robot research the professor has been dealing with will not be delayed, and that we can study it quickly and begin actual applications.

[Kobayashi] The technology that makes up defense robots is very broad based, including movement mechanisms and many other fields, and will require steady, continued research. And as research goes forward, it should not be just for the generation after next, but also include development and deployment of next-generation items that respond directly to such things as hazardous working conditions. One other factor is that young people have a real vision of robot research. They are interested in it and do it well. Since defense robots are characterized by the ability to traverse rough terrain, I think research should raise its sights, put together the technology and have an influence on a number of fields.

[Asano] I am grateful for the comments that have been made, and for Professor Hirose's technical advice. I am also grateful for various views from the users' side. This will give great encouragement to those of us in the position of doing research, so I would like to hear now from Director Shinoda, who has to continue efforts in both research and application.

[Shinoda] My laboratory is the only one in the Defense Agency that is doing research on defense robots, and in that sense, as Mr. Torii just said, the bottom line is the expectation of the users, who look at something and ask hopefully, "Can it be used for this?" In short, it has to be seen as a success. I think that at first we shouldn't aim too high, as was just said, and build a robot of which we can say "This much is possible," and raise hopes by saying, "It is not possible now, but these excellent results are possible by continuing along these lines." Another thing is that our lab is fortunate to have young people who, as Mr. Kobayashi just said, have a lot of new ideas and are doing a lot of new research. Their goals are all related to our defense robot; these excellent people are gathered together and working furiously. I used to dream that we would have young people like this someday, and now I am very grateful. We know that we are being watched by the companies and people inside and outside the Defense Agency, and so we want to do everything in our power to meet those expectations.

[Tomita] Thank you very much for spending so much time here today.

Mongolia

Ochirbat, Bulgaria's Zhelev Sign Treaty 5 Apr

AU0504172295 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 April, in Ulaanbaatar, President Zhelyu Zhelev and Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat signed a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. The document lays the foundation of

restoring relations with Mongolia. It will be supplemented by separate agreements in various spheres.

Dr. Zhelev arrived today on a brief and official visit to Mongolia immediately upon completing his visit to South Korea. This is the first visit of a Bulgarian president to Mongolia.

We expressed dissatisfaction with the state of bilateral cooperation and the decline of trade relations after 1989, Dr. Zhelev said at a joint news conference with the Mongolian head of state after their talks.

The statements of the two presidents clarified that the Bulgarian and Mongolian sides could not agree on settling the Mongolian debt to Bulgaria and on the fate of the two joint enterprises in Mongolia. The issue of the payments and our enterprises in Mongolia must be resolved on the basis of real cooperation and not on the basis of haggling. This must take place in a normal and dignified manner, Zhelyu Zhelev said.

Mr. Ochirbat addressed himself to the manner of settling the mutual debts and said that the trade balance shows that Bulgaria is in debt to Mongolia.

Kiril Tsochev, deputy prime minister and minister of trade and foreign economic relations, who later conducted negotiations with his Mongolian counterpart, refused to disclose information regarding the scope of the mutual debts. Kiril Tsochev announced that he has succeeded in agreeing with the Mongolian partners to continue the negotiations in Sofia.

Mr. Tsochev told Bulgarian journalists that to sign a friendship treaty and then rely on this treaty and claim that the debt has been settled has nothing to do with the market economy. According to him, the difference between the two sides is not in the scope of the debt, but in the manner of calculating the amounts at the present moment.

North Korea

Formation of U.S. Reinforcement Unit Denounced

SK0504150595 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "Texas 3d Corps is Accelerating Preparations in Readiness for Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a news report, the U.S. State Department [as heard] has reinforced continental U.S.-based combat troops for overseas deployment from one corps to two corps by augmenting an additional corps for successful accomplishment of the win-win strategy, which has been worked out on the assumption of an emergency on the Korean peninsula and other cases.

The new, additionally designated corps is reportedly the Texas 3d Corps. At the moment, this corps is reportedly

intensifying its training and augmenting its equipment in conformity with a new mission for overseas deployment.

Meanwhile, it is said that in tandem with the designation of the Texas 3d Corps as reinforcement; in South Korea, the U.S. Forces in South Korea and the puppet Army are modifying details of the joint exercise plan in this connection.

This is really another military move of a very ominous nature [ttohanaui maeu simsangchianun kunsajok umjikimi anilsu opssumnida]. The latest measure by the U.S. warmongers [miguk hojongwangdul] shows that they have already made the provocation of a new war in Korea a fait accompli and have been making haste in making preparations for it. This is clear proof that shows they are persistently adhering to [chipyohage maedaligo-itanun tturyothan silchunguro toemnida] the obsolete policy of force, military maneuvers of crushing [kunsajok apsal chaektong], while running counter to the international reduction of tension and to the spirit of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

As everybody knows, now under implementation between the DPRK and the United States [miguk] is the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement, which is committed to solving the nuclear issue at its root and to guaranteeing peace and stability [anjong] on the Korean peninsula.

Needless to say, a successful implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement serves as an important contribution to the peace and stability of Asia and the world, as well as on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, the peace-loving people of Asia and the world, as well as the Korean people, are expressing great interest and expectations in the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

This notwithstanding, at this stage of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement, the U.S. warmongers are, on the contrary, making desperate efforts [parakhago itssumnida] to check the implementation of the agreement and bring the situation to the dangerous brink of war [wihomhan chonjaeng chopkyong], while adhering to more reckless military maneuvers.

The persistent [odikkajina], ulterior motive of the U.S. imperialist warmongers [mije hojongwangdul] is for a war. This is more clearly corroborated by a series of military moves conducted by the U.S. imperialist warmongers in recent days.

As has been already reported, the U.S. imperialist warmongers are reexamining the system to transport war supplies and weapons on the assumption of a Korean war in the 21st century; and, along with the South Korean puppets, they are accelerating the joint manufacture of a U-2 unmanned high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft aimed at spying on the area of the northern part of the Republic.

Moreover, while mobilizing a vast number of troops across South Korea, they are waging large-scale war exercises of a northward invasion against us almost every day; and are further intensifying aerial espionage activities against us.

In the single month of March alone, the U.S. imperialist warmongers committed aerial espionage activities against the northern part of the Republic on as many as about 210 occasions by mobilizing a great number of various strategic, tactical reconnaissance planes.

On the assumption of an emergency on the Korean peninsula and other cases, the U.S. Defense Department has of late additionally augmented the Texas 3d Corps in the continental United States as reinforcement for overseas deployment. It is needless to say that this is also a part of the military maneuvers of crushing.

All facts indisputably show that the U.S. imperialist warmongers are more earnestly accelerating preparations for a war of northward invasion behind the facade of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

The U.S. imperialist warmongers' unchanged ambition is to crush [apsal] us with military force. This notwithstanding, the U.S. warmongers should clearly know that neither military threat and blackmail [kuottun kunsajok wihyop, konggal] from the United States, or maneuvers to crush will work on us [uriegenun choltaero tonghalsu optanunkossul].

Our people are a dignified people who value independence more than life. We will never tolerate the slightest act of infringing upon our sovereignty [chajugwon] and national dignity. We are prepared for both dialogue and war [urinun taehwaedo chonjaengedo ta jur.bidoco itssumnida].

Our people's firm stance and will is to respond to dialogue with dialogue, to war with war [taehwaenun taehwaro, chonjaengenun chonjaenguro taedaphanunkosi paro uriinminui hwakko pudonghan ipchangigo uijiimnida].

If the U.S. warmongers should try to get something by using maneuvers of military threats and blackmail against us, this will be a miscalculation; if they should persistently [kkutkkutnae] traverse the adventuresome road to war, the aggressors [chimnyakchadul] will not be able to escape from ruin.

ROK-U.S. 'Anti-North' Exercises Denounced

SK0604101595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 6 Apr 95

["Anti-North War Exercises Extremely Tightening Situation"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist warmaniacs, in league with the South Korean puppets, staged on April 3 and 4 aerial

joint war exercises against the North in the skies over Tokjok and Anmyon Islets of South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the war games, which were waged day and night under the command of the E-3 plane, were 20 odd planes of overseas-based naval flying corps and more than 580 military planes of various types of the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet airforce.

And the mechanized infantry, tank and armoured units of the South Korean puppet army on April 3 and 4 staged day and night an offensive exercise against the North in the areas of Chunchon, Kapyong and Hwachon under cover of over 100 fighter planes. On the same days 105 and 155mm artillery groups of the puppet army in the area of Chorwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, fired 300 odd shells at an area near the Demilitarized Zone.

On April 3 over 40 transport helicopter gunships of the puppet army staged airborne operations and exercises to attack targets in the sky over the forefront area, while, on April 4, several hundred combatant ships of the puppet army participated in a large-scale surprising landing and naval battle exercises with the help of 40 odd fighter planes on the East [Sea of Japan] and West Seas of Korea.

This clearly shows that the anti-North war hysteria of the U.S. imperialist warmaniacs and the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group reached a very dangerous state.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by increased tension on the Korean peninsula and stop running wild.

Papers Criticize ROK Military Exercises

SK0604053695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 6 Apr 95

[“Dangerous War Gamble”—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today say the large-scale offensive exercise the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique started on April 3 with the mobilization of more than 80,000 soldiers of the puppet three services and even “reserve forces” is a dangerous war move against the North.

Though the Kim Yong-sam group are giving lip service to “dialogue,” a war is what they really seek, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says, and continues:

They are now hell bent on doing things to get on the nerve of the fellow countrymen in the North.

The exercise is motivated by a foolish attempt to balk at the implementation of the agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States now in progress and the successful holding of festivals to

be held in Pyongyang in April by intentionally aggravating the situation of the Korean peninsula.

The Kim Yong-sam clique of traitors entreated outside forces to hold the Team Spirit joint military manoeuvres this year, but to no effect. So, they are trying to realise their sinister intention by staging a large-scale military exercise by themselves and intentionally rendering the situation of the Korean peninsula strained.

We never do an act of mercy to those who forestall us.

The Kim Yong-sam clique of traitors must clearly see the trend of the time and act with discretion.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst warns that the Korean people and People's Army closely united around the great commander descended from heaven will never pardon those running wild to slay them.

Defection of ROK Citizen to North Reported

SK0604131495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A young South Korean named Song Bo-yong, 28, defected to the northern half of the Republic. Functionaries concerned gave him a wreath and warmly welcomed him with fraternal love.

Song Bo-yong's home town is Changdan-ri, Taebyongmyon, Hapchon County, South Kyongsang Province. He attended an elementary school and a junior high school in his home town. After graduating from senior high school, he joined the puppet army. After being discharged from military service, Song earned a living at sales agencies for student reference books and restaurants from 1990 until he defected to the North. He took the opportunity to defect while traveling overseas. He was beside himself with joy at the realization of his desire to defect to the North.

Defector Comments on Motive

SK0604150995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 6 Apr 95

[“South Korean Young Man Defects to North”—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Song Po-yong, 28, came over to the northern half of Korea from South Korea.

Hailing from Changdan-ri, Taebyong Subcounty, Hapchon County, South Kyongsang Province, he served in the puppet army after graduating from a high school.

Demobilized from the puppet army, he had worked at bookstores and restaurants since 1990.

His parents, elder brother and sister live in South Korea.

Referring to the motive of his coming over to the North, he said: I realized that my hope and ambition cannot be achieved in South Korean society where money and

power hold sway. I wanted to enjoy a worthy life under the care of the great leader Kim Chong-il who is administering a true politics centering on the people. I went abroad and took the opportunity to defect to the North.

ROK Trade Deficit 'Largely Increased'

*SK0604102295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—South Korea's trade deficit has largely increased, according to a report.

South Korea has undergone an excessive burden of imports in trade dealings owing to the increasing exchange quotation of yen. As a result, the balance of payments deficit of South Korea in the first quarterly year's trade dealings has run into 4,140 million U.S. dollars, or 60 percent higher than the figure in the similar period of last year.

This is an inevitable result of dependence of the South Korean economy on Japan.

Letters Sent to ROK About Reunification Festival

*SK0604053195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The North side preparatory committee for grand national reunification festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country sent letters on April 4 to Chairman of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification Kang Hui-nam, permanent advisor to the Democratic Party Yi Chong-chan, father Mun Kyu-hyon of the "national Roman Catholic priests' group for the realization of justice", Co-chairman of the Council of Family Movement for Realizing Democracy Yi So-son and President of "Korea Radio and Correspondence University" Han Wan-sang as regards the preparations for the August 15 grand national reunification festival.

Noting that the joint meeting of political parties and organisations of the DPRK on Jan. 24 proposed for the people in the North, the South and overseas to jointly celebrate the 50th anniversary of national liberation, the letters hoped that this momentous event of the nation will be held with success through concerted efforts and wisdom with South Korean figures from all walks of life.

The letters expressed the hope that figures of South Korea would show an affirmative response to the North's proposal to meet soon in a third country in April and discuss the matters concerning the opening of the August 15 grand national reunification festival.

Buddhists Discuss Ways for Reunification

*SK0604055695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—An enlarged plenary meeting of the Central Committee

of the Korean Buddhist Federation (KBF) took place in Pyongyang on April 5 on the lapse of two years since the great leader President Kim Il-song published "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country".

It was attended by members of the Central Committee of the KBF, leading officials of its provincial, city and county committees, chief priests of major Buddhist temples and delegates of Buddhists.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song who had devoted his whole life to the reunification of the country.

The plenary meeting discussed "Tasks of Buddhists to achieve cause of reunifying the country in the 1990s under banner of 10-point Programme of Great Unity of Whole Nation."

The most venerable Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the KBF, delivered a report, which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said that the country must be reunified through confederation on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity jointly confirmed by the North and the South. What is most important in the accomplishment of the reunification cause is that all the fellow countrymen should closely unite and dynamically struggle under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, they stressed.

For the present, they added, the Buddhists in the North, the South and overseas should closely cooperate with each other and take an active part in an August 15 grand festival for national reunification celebrating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country and thus make a contribution to opening up an epochal phase in achieving the reunification this year.

A letter to the Buddhists in South Korea and overseas was adopted at the plenary meeting.

The letter called upon all the Buddhists in South Korea and overseas to actively turn out for a successful holding of the August 15 grand festival for national reunification under the banner of the great unity of the whole nation.

Workers in Wonsan Criticize Kim Yong-sam Group

*SK0504053195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501
GMT 5 Apr 95*

["Kim Yong-sam Group Criticized for Anti-Ethical Crimes"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—Working people in Wonsan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met on April 4 to denounce the anti-national crime of the traitor Kim Yong-sam group that lacerated again the hearts of the fellow countrymen

in the North who shed bloody tears last year over the death of the father of the nation.

Han Yong-nam, chairman of the Kangwon provincial administrative and economic committee, and other speakers representing broad segments of the people told the meeting that the Kim Yong-sam group are justifying their anti-ethical act now by claiming that it was a "proper step" and this criminal act can be done only by human scum indifferent to national customs.

The Kim Yong-sam group urge the person, who talked about their unjust act toward the misfortune of the North, to express "the real intention of the words." This emanates from a sinister intention to slander and suppress the political rivals and people by taking issue of their ideas and bring issue to ideological confrontation between the North and the South, they said.

With the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group left alone, it is impossible to realize national reconciliation and unity and achieve peace and reunification of the country and keep alive the beautiful manners and customs peculiar to the Korean nation, the speakers said.

They called upon the fellow countrymen to vigorously struggle to decisively smash the manoeuvres of the South Korean puppets against the nation, reunification and dialogue and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country at an early date, firmly united around the great leader General Kim Chong-il.

Kim Yong-sun News Conference on Talks With Japan

SK0604023495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], held a news conference in Pyongyang yesterday [5 April] regarding the agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks adopted by the WPK delegation and the delegation of the three ruling coalition parties of Japan on 30 March. Journalists from newspapers, news agencies, and broadcast stations in Pyongyang attended the news conference. Secretary Kim Yong-sun made the following remarks at the news conference:

The delegation included members from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] led by Michio Watanabe, former Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and member of the House of Representatives; Wataru Kubo, general secretary of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] and member of the House of Councillors; and Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of the New Party Sakigake and member of the House of Representatives, and visited Pyongyang from 28 to 30 March.

The WPK delegation held talks with the visiting delegation of the three ruling coalition parties of the LDP, the SDP and the New Party Sakigake of Japan. An agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks was

adopted and announced during the talks. Based on the lesson of the past intergovernmental talks that were held in accordance with the historic three-party joint declaration on DPRK-Japan relations, the agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks defines the character of DPRK-Japan dialogue and presents fundamental demands concerning the attitude toward the talks.

I would like to comment on the principles of and the fundamental demands concerning the attitude toward the intergovernmental talks for the normalization of the diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan reflected in the recently adopted and announced agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks. First, regarding the position and contents of the agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks, the agreement reiterated that future talks on the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations will be continuation of the intergovernmental talks that were held in accordance with the historic three-party joint declaration on DPRK-Japan relations adopted by the WPK, and Japan's LDP and SDP in September 1990. Therefore, future intergovernmental talks on the normalization of diplomatic relations should deal with the resumption and continuation of talks that were held in accordance with the three-party joint declaration. Thus, the format of the document is not a declaration but an agreement because it is about the continuation of DPRK-Japan talks that were held in accordance with the historic three-party joint declaration.

The preface of the agreement stated: "In September 1990, the delegations of the LDP and the SDP visited Pyongyang and adopted a historic three-party joint declaration with the WPK. Accordingly, intergovernmental talks between the DPRK and Japan on normalizing diplomatic relations began in January 1991 and proceeded to the eighth round. With the aim of resuming talks on the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, the WPK delegation and the delegation of the three coalition parties of Japan, agree to the following." The last part of the agreement clearly stipulated that the ninth round of DPRK-Japan intergovernmental talks be held. Thus, future DPRK-Japan intergovernmental talks will be a continuation of the talks that were held in accordance with the historic three-party joint declaration, which explained the fundamental problems of DPRK-Japan relations.

Second, I would like to stress the fundamental demand in the attitude that is to be taken at the talks, as stipulated in the agreement on the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks. Article 1 of the agreement stipulates that active efforts should be exerted to liquidate the unhappy past between the two countries and to normalize diplomatic relations at an early date. This clarifies the order in which problems need to be solved in the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations. In other words, the agreement clarified that it is a fundamental demand for Japan to apologize and compensate for the enormous damage and disaster it inflicted on the Korean people in

the past, which is a basic problem for DPRK-Japan relations, in order to normalize diplomatic relations.

Also, Article 2 of the agreement defines that they recognize that there are no preconditions for resuming dialogue between the two countries on normalizing diplomatic relations, and that they should be for the purpose of improving relations in any case. The reason that this was specified is due to the fact that the talks on normalizing diplomatic relations have been suspended since the eighth round of talks were held because the party to dialogue raised issues, including the nonexistent nuclear issue and Yi Eun-hye issue which have nothing to do with the dialogue, as preconditions for DPRK-Japanese talks. Therefore, the agreement confirms the principled demands that the upcoming intergovernmental talks between the two countries should be for the propose of improving relations without such preconditions.

Also, Article 3 defines that talks between the two countries should be held thoroughly from an independent stand and a position of self-determination. This indicates that both sides have confirmed that a party to dialogue marred the atmosphere of dialogue during the intergovernmental talks to speak on behalf of foreign forces, including the United States, and that this should not be repeated.

Third, I would like to stress that the agreement on resuming DPRK-Japanese talks will be binding to their respective governments. The agreement adopted this time clearly delineates that the historic joint statement by the three parties concerning DPRK-Japanese relations and the agreement on resuming DPRK-Japanese talks is binding for the governments [chongbujok kuso-kryok].

In particular, Article 4 defines that motivated by their responsibility as the ruling parties, they shall make such efforts that their respective governments can actively promote the talks for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries at an early date. This clearly defines that the agreement adopted this time regarding the resumption of talks between the DPRK and Japan, as a document agreed upon between the ruling parties, will have binding force on their respective governments.

The reason behind the definition of such articles in the agreement is because some Japanese forces have stated previously that because the historic joint statement by the three parties is a document agreed upon by the ruling parties, it cannot be binding for their governments, even when the Japanese prime minister and the Japanese Government supported and welcomed it, the intergovernmental talks between the two countries were held in accordance with the joint statement by the three parties, and the overall contents of the joint statement by the three parties were discussed during the talks.

The joint statement by the three parties was signed by the LDP, the Japanese ruling party, and by the SDP, the first opposition party, at the time of its adoption.

Because the Japanese ruling coalition of the LDP, SDP, and the new party Sakigake together recognizes the effectuation of this document, its binding force on their government has increased greatly.

Intergovernmental talks between the DPRK and Japan will be held in the future regarding the principles of dialogue and the attitude of dialogue ingrained in the agreement for resuming the DPRK- Japanese talks, according to principled demands.

Japan's Prime Minister Comments on Normalization

SK0604045195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The Japanese prime minister, Tomiichi Murayama, on April 5 expressed his intention to work for the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to a report.

He told reporters that it is unnatural for Japan to fail to forge diplomatic relations with a neighbouring nation for 50 years, adding: Needless to say, it is better to establish these relations.

Chongnyon Thanks Kim Chong-il for Japan Accord

SK0604042895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il on April 3 received a message of thanks from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) concerning the adoption of the agreement for resumption of DPRK-Japan talks between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the three ruling coalition parties of Japan on March 30.

The message says that the agreement for resumption of DPRK-Japan talks held according to the historic three-party joint declaration adopted in September 1990 is a great event of opening the way of epochal turn not only in improving Korea-Japan relations and normalising diplomatic relations but in ensuring peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

It notes that the agreement to resume intergovernmental talks between the DPRK and Japan for normalisation of diplomatic relations from a strictly independent, self-determined position without any precondition is a proud victory of brilliant intelligence and outstanding leadership of respected Marshal Kim Chong-il and the independent diplomacy of the DPRK led by him.

All the officials of Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan will make a big contribution to further strengthening friendship and solidarity with the people of Japan and successfully implementing the agreement for resumption of

DPRK-Japan talks, with their honour as overseas citizens of chuche Korea under the leadership of the great general, it says.

The message sincerely wishes Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

IICI Director General Feted in Pyongyang 5 Apr
SK0604055295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456
GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A feast was given at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Wednesday to celebrate the 70th birthday of director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea [IICI] Shuhachi Inoue, a winner of "International Kim Il-song Prize", who is staying in Korea.

Noting that the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a birthday table and a gift to Shuhachi Inoue, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop said in his speech:

"This gift is deeply associated with the noble traits and high intention of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who continues the love and trust the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song showed for Mr. Inoue in his lifetime."

"The director general has devoted his all to propagandizing and disseminating the chuche idea in Japan and other countries over the past 20 years," Hwang said, hoping for a greater success in his future work to implant the chuche idea in the heart of humankind.

Director General Shuhachi Inoue said in reply speech that President Kim Il-song and Mr. Kim Chong-il are his most esteemed benefactors.

Telling about what made him a follower of the chuche idea, he said:

The chuche idea founded by the great President Kim Il-song was the first in history to elucidate that man is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness and he is the master of the world and his own destiny, thus raising the dignity and value of man on the highest plane.

He came to know well that the popular masses could become great only when their leader is great, Shuhachi Inoue said, adding: "Indeed, the president had successfully brought the desire of the people into reality and the people have remained loyal to him, regarding him as their father."

The president who dedicated his life to the human cause of independence would remain forever the leader of the people, the director general stressed, saying: Though he passed away his revolutionary cause is wisely being led by Mr. Kim Chong-il."

Today President Kim Il-song is just Mr. Kim Chong-il and vice versa, he said, stressing:

"Mr. Kim Chong-il is a distinguished thinker and theoretician, a great statesman and the people's benevolent leader with noble traits."

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table
SK0604054795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450
GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a 70th birthday table and a gift to Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea [IICI], who is a winner of "International Kim Il-song Prize".

They were conveyed to him by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on April 5.

Foreign Party Leaders Support Korean 'Cause'
SK0504232995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505
GMT 5 Apr 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—Foreign party leaders, when they received the DPRK ambassadors to their countries recently, expressed support for the just cause of the Korean people.

Emile Kibala Bey a Nsien, national chairman of the Workers' Party of Zaire, said that his party absolutely trusts and supports dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is successfully carrying forward the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great Comrade Kim Il-song, and fully supports the principled stand of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Korean people for implementing the DPRK- U.S. framework agreement. "We will staunchly struggle for worldwide victory of the cause of independence and actively defend the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, holding Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as an outstanding leader of the world socialist movement," he stressed.

Noting that the Workers' Party and Government of Korea have built the Korean-style socialism most successfully, Abderrahmane Tlili, secretary general of the Unionist Democratic Union of Tunisia, voiced full support for the WPK's policy of national reunification and principled, steadfast position concerning a solution to the nuclear issue.

Ibrahima N'diaye, secretary general of the executive committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and Justice of Mali, said: "We, come what may, will support the stand of your party and country concerning national reunification and the nuclear issue."

Nepal Government, Educational Delegation Arrives

SK0604150595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500
GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A government, educational and cultural delegation of

Nepal led by Modnath Prachand, minister of education, culture and social welfare, arrived here today.

It was greeted at the airport by Kim Myong-nam, first vice-minister of culture and art.

Greetings Sent to South African Communist Party

*SK0604104095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 9th Congress of the South African Communist Party.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two parties will further strengthen and develop through the struggle against the imperialists and for peace and socialism and wished the congress success in its work.

Diplomatic Corps Tours Revolutionary Sites 4 Apr

*SK0504053295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438
GMT 5 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—The diplomatic corps in Korea visited Mangyongdae on the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Tuesday.

Going round the native home of the president, relics and revolutionary sites on Mangyong Hill, they were briefed on his glorious and brilliant revolutionary history.

They also called at the Ssuksom revolutionary site on the river Taedong.

They heard an explanation about the site and the joint conference of the North and the South recorded in the history of the Korean nation as a great meeting which united patriotic figures from all walks of life under the banner of territorial integrity and national reunification, while making a round of the monument to the united front, a ferryboat and the place of a consultative meeting and other places on the islet.

The Ssuk Islet is a historical site where right after the joint conference of the North and the South in April 1948, President Kim Il-song consulted with Kim Ku, Kim Kyu-sik and other political figures of South Korea about measures for fulfilling the tasks adopted at the conference.

Yasir Farah, Syrian Ambassador to Korea, wrote in the visitor's book the great leader convened an important joint conference for Korea's reunification to weather the situation after the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and illumined the bright road to reunify the divided country.

Korea's reunification should be achieved under the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole

nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader in his lifetime, he wrote.

On the same day, the chief of the Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea visited Mangyongdae and the Ssuksom revolutionary site with the diplomatic corps.

Paper Praises Kim Chong-il as 'Great Man'

*SK0604103695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029
GMT 6 Apr 95*

["Great Man and Philosophy"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "Great Man and Philosophy", which stresses that respected Comrade Kim Chong-il who indicates the road ahead of the times and awakens and rouses the people with great philosophy and ideas is, indeed, a great teacher of the people and another distinguished great man whom humankind of the 20th century has greeted.

The article says that the leader of the revolution should have a philosophy.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"If one is to engage himself in politics, he must know philosophy. The leading level and ability of leaders are decided according to what their political philosophy is."

The article further says:

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is a prominent philosopher who is leading the revolution and construction with the greatest philosophy.

The philosophy of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the chuche idea which holds the highest place in the history of human thought. His greatness lies in that he takes as his philosophical creed the chuche idea which not only gives a sound viewpoint toward nature, society and man but also teaches a perfect revolutionary theory and leadership method.

The chuche philosophy is a man-centred world outlook. It is the first in history to give the most profound and comprehensive exposition of the essence of the world and the destiny of man.

It fully represents the aspirations and needs of the working masses. In other words, it is a philosophy for the working masses themselves.

The chuche philosophy guarantees an eternal vitality of the independent driving force.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is an outstanding statesman who enforces the most sound politics on the basis of the chuche philosophy.

He carries out politics for the people, the politics of love and trust, on the basis of the chuche idea. His politics is

a benevolent one which deeply respects the people, defends their interests and bestows the greatest love and benefits upon them.

The great Comrade Kim Chong-il's politics which makes the leader, the party and the masses share life and death, sweets and bitters is the most glorious and successful one.

He has confidently enforced politics for the people, not making any mistake or deviation in terms of lines.

The wisdom and scientific character of Comrade Kim Chong-il's politics are unthinkable apart from his foresight, which is based on the *chuche* philosophy.

He is exalting Korean-style socialism boundlessly with the most sound and successful politics unprecedented in history.

Philosophical are all thinking and activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il who shapes politics for the people.

His philosophical knowledge is very rare and his thinking is so energetic and profound that there is no one who will match him. So, he successfully carried out the historical task of formulating the revolutionary idea of Comrade Kim Il-song as an integral system of ideology, theory and method of *chuche* and newly developed and enriched the principles of the *chuche* idea, thus exalting it as the great guiding idea of the present times.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's philosophy has fully been accepted by the Korean people.

It is the highest honor and greatest happiness of the Korean people that they have the supreme leader of the party and the revolution in the person of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il who has led the revolution and enforced politics with the great philosophy indicating the way of shaping the destinies of the popular masses.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Soldiers' Families

SK0604043495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 4 April 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], sent a thank-you note to family members of the People's Army soldiers.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the KPA, the great leader [*yongdoja*] of our party and people, sent thank-you notes to Kang Chong-ae, Chi Nam-ok, Kim Son-wol, Han Hwa-suk, Cho Song-nam, and Ho Chong-ok, family members of a KPA soldier, as well as to Pak Myong-suk and her family members; to Yi Sun-pok and her family members; to Chon Kum-suk and her family members; to Kim Yong-suk and her family members; to 19 military family members, including O Pok-tok; and to other military family members of the command of the Army unit which Yi Hui-son belongs, who did many good deeds.

The military family members—including Kang Chong-ae, Pak Myong-suk, and Yi Sun-pok—have raised domestic animals for several years and sent soldiers a large amount of meat and eggs every year. Ho Chong-ok, military family member, has provided a great deal of mushrooms, which she herself produced, to soldiers over the past years. The military family members, including Cho Song-nam and Yi Kum-hwa, visited soldiers, who are mobilized in the socialist construction, and encouraged them with a considerable amount of the relief materials [*wonho mulja*].

On-the-spot meetings were held to deliver the thank-you notes from the respected and beloved supreme comrade commander. General officers, military officers, soldiers, and their family members attended the meetings. The thank-you notes from Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the KPA, were delivered amid the participants' enthusiastic applause. Following this, discussions of resolutions were held.

Kim Il-song Work Published in Booklet in India

SK0604102095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—“Answers to Questions Raised by the General Director of the Latin American News Agency Prensa Latina”, a famous work of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was published in booklet on April 1 by the All-India Indo-Korean Friendship Association on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The booklet in its preface says:

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song is not only the great leader of the Korean people but an intimate friend of the Indian people and the great sun of the world revolution.

He, overcoming the most severe trials and obstacles of the present history, performed immortal exploits which will remain recorded in the history of humankind, by wisely leading the Korean revolution and the world revolution, up to his eighties ever since he embarked on the road of revolution.

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song was a true leader of the people and a great revolutionary who energetically worked till the last moments of his life for freedom and happiness of the people, victory of the socialist cause and the country's reunification and the human cause of independence.

More Foreigners Visit Kim Il-song Statue

SK0604060795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A Chinese circus troupe, a delegation of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Interchange Association, an art troupe of Koreans in the United States and a delegation of the Aid Association of Koreans in the United States which came

to participate in the 13th April spring friendship art festival visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang on April 4 and expressed deep reverence for him.

They laid with unbounded respect and reverence bunches of flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song who had made undying exploits for the Korean revolution and the human cause of independence, and made a bow.

The head of the Chinese circus troupe, said that President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and a close friend of the Chinese people, would always remain alive in their mind.

Mitsuko Ogasawara, head of the delegation of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Interchange Association, said that they could hardly believe the death of President Kim Il-song who was so glad to see them and embraced them warmly whenever they greeted him every April.

She added that the tender-hearted president will remain alive in the mind of humankind.

On the same day, a delegation of the Luzenac group of France headed by Chief Executive Officer Andre J. Talmon laid a floral basket before the statue of President Kim Il-song.

PRC Embassy Officials Visit

SK0504232795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai and his embassy officials today laid a floral basket before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang.

They laid the floral basket with deep reverence for President Kim Il-song, who devoted all his life for the independence of the world and the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Chinese peoples, and paid homage to him.

Written on the ribbon of the floral basket were letters "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal".

Symposium Held on Education Work of Kim Il-song

SK0604151495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A scientific symposium was held here today upon the lapse of 20 years since the great leader President Kim Il-song published the work [word indistinct] the Successful Introduction of Universal Compulsory Eleven-Year education" on April 10, 1975.

In the work he, basing himself on the achievements made in education in the past, declared that compulsory eleven-year education would be fully introduced throughout the country from September 1, 1975, and gave detailed exposition of the tasks and ways for its successful introduction.

The symposium was attended by Choe [name indistinct] alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned.

The attendants observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song.

Speeches were made at the symposium under the titles "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song's Policy of Universal Compulsory Eleven-Year Education Is a Communist Policy Embodying Our Party's Benevolent Politics," "Proper Education in Science With Priority Given to Political and Ideological Education Is Vital To Implementing the Principle of the Socialist Pedagogy in Education," etc.

The speakers said the work of the great leader has served as a revolutionary programme of socialist education for rearing the rising generation to be reliable heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche, prepared politically and ideologically and fully equipped with secondary and general knowledge, and promoting the intellectualization of the whole society by bringing the advantages of our country's socialist educational system into full play.

They noted that the idea and policy elucidated in the work have been embodied in the practice of education in our country over the past two decades, with their validity and vitality fully proved.

They vowed to further strengthen and develop education to be chuche-oriented genuine education by thoroughly fulfilling the behests of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, faithful and devoted in one mind to the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Kim Il-song's Birthday Commemorated Overseas

SK0604101795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Different countries are observing April 15, the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Rakotomandimby Selestine [spelling of name as received], national chairperson of the Socialist Progressive Party of Madagascar, visited the Korean Embassy in her country on April 1.

She laid down a floral basket before the portrait of President Kim Il-song.

Although the great leader President Kim Il-song passed away, his exploits will remain in the hearts of the revolutionary people of the world forever, she said.

Commemorative meetings were held at the National Direction Committee of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally in Mali, the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Kim Il-song-Kim Chong-il in Vienna, Austria, and in Conakry, Guinea.

Saying that President Kim Il-song's whole life is the life of a prominent leader who performed immortal exploits for the liberation cause of humankind, upholding the banner of socialism and independence against imperialism, the speakers noted that his immortal exploits for Korea's revolution and the world revolution will shine forever along with human history.

The Peru-Korea Friendship Association published a special issue of bulletin.

Art Show Marking Kim Il-song Birthday Opens

*SK0604054395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A national art show "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Always With Us" opened at the Korean Art Gallery to commemorate his birth anniversary, April 15.

Displayed there are 60 odd works portraying President Kim Il-song, who devoted his all to his last moments to the prosperity and development of the country, to the happiness of the people and to the country's reunification and the independence of the whole world, including the Korean painting "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Always With Us" depicting him with a broad smile standing against the background of Mt. Paektu, surrounded by azalea, and the oil "Generalissimo Kim Il-song, a Great Brilliant Commander" depicting him in generalissimo uniform.

Also on show are works demonstrating the unshakable will and the powerful singlehearted unity of the people who are dynamically advancing toward the completion of the cause of the Korean revolution under the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song. Among them are the oil "We Will Trust and Follow Only the Great General Kim Chong-il" and the poster "Let Us Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche With Respected General Kim Chong-il as Our Leader."

The opening ceremony held Wednesday was attended by Vice-premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, officials concerned, artists and art fans and working people in the city.

Kim Il-song Reunification Work Anniversary Noted

*SK0604052795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang meeting was held at the People's Palace of Culture on April 5 to mark the lapse of two years since

the great leader President Kim Il-song's work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was published on April 6, 1993.

In the work President Kim Il-song expounded a basic idea that all those who are concerned about the destiny of the nation must unite as one and make a tangible contribution to the reunification of the country and the development and prosperity of a reunified land.

The work gives a comprehensive exposition of the general goal, ideological basis, principles and practical ways of great national unity to found a unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, involving the whole nation, through the great unity of the whole nation.

Attending the meeting were Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president; Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party and vice-president; other senior party and state officials, working people in the city, overseas compatriots staying in the socialist homeland and Yi Chong-sang, chief of the mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea in Pyongyang.

The attendants paid a silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song.

Yang Hyong-sop, alternate Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, in the report at the meeting said no sooner had the 10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation been published than it enjoyed full support from not only all the Koreans in the North, South and overseas but also the world revolutionary people for the steadfast patriotic stand and impartiality reflected in all the articles. Its invincible might and vitality have been more convincingly confirmed as the days go by, he said.

The Workers' Party and Government of Korea, he noted, have made every sincere effort to head off the danger of a new war and pave a new phase in national reunification by united efforts of the nation under the banner of the ten-point programme.

The South Korean rulers, however, have committed treacheries against the fellow countrymen, while more persistently pursuing the policy of dependence on foreign forces than before, he said.

The treacheries committed by the Kim Yong-sam group have deteriorated the inter-Korean relations still further and seriously affected the future of national reunification, he said, adding: "We cannot pardon the crimes of the Kim Yong-sam group defying the unanimous desire and aspirations of the nation."

"It is due to the United States that today our nation's just cause for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification has not been realized. If the United States

wants to respect the DPRK- U.S. framework agreement, it should refrain from resorting to the unwarrantable pressure on us and committing acts against the peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification."

The reporter went on:

"The South Korean people from all walks of life and overseas Koreans should make a tangible contribution to the cause of national reunification, those with strength devoting their strength, those with knowledge giving their knowledge and those with money donating their money.

"The South Korean people should turn out in a courageous struggle to decidedly overthrow the group of Kim Yong-sam, arch-traitor, and have the 'National Security Law', an anti-reunification law, scrapped and have the 'Agency for National Security Planning' and other institutional tools barring the unity of the nation and reunification dismantled.

"And they should check and frustrate the belligerent moves and North-South confrontation on the part of the puppet clique and so avert the danger of a new war and pave a broad avenue to peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

"All the Koreans in the North, South and overseas should decidedly smash the vicious challenge and obstructions of the partitionist forces at home and abroad and bring a grand national reunification festival scheduled to be held to mark the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation to a success so as to make this a historical year of a new epochal turn in the history of the reunification movement of the Korean nation."

Dailies Commemorate Anniversary

SK0604060095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512
GMT 6 Apr 95

["Papers Call for Bringing Phase of Epochal Turn to National Reunification Via Great National Unity"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today dedicate editorials to the second anniversary of the publication of the great leader President Kim Il-song's work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country".

NODONG SINMUN in the editorial says the 10-point programme published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a great *chuche*-based programme, which indicates the best way of getting over the difficulties standing in the way of national reunification and achieving the country's independent, peaceful reunification by the united efforts of the nation.

It is an honorable, worthwhile task facing the Korean people to carry into reality the 10-point programme and

reunify the country independently and in a peaceful way, the editorial says, and goes on:

This year greets the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese colonial rule and the lapse of 50 years since national division, and it is the teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song that the cause of national reunification should be accomplished without fail in the century.

To reunify the country in the 90s is possible only when the whole nation pools its strength and wisdom and conducts a dynamic reunification movement. From this point of view, to grandly celebrate the 50th anniversary of national liberation that is drawing near, with the united efforts of the nation will mark the most reasonable occasion in hewing out the short-cut to reunification in the 90s.

No doubt, to celebrate, with the united efforts of the Koreans in the North, South and overseas, August 15, 1995, the 50th anniversary of national liberation as proposed by the joint meeting of the political parties and organisations of the DPRK will provide a historical occasion in declaring the advent of the era of reunification.

In order to bring the grand national reunification festival scheduled to be held to successfully celebrate the 50th anniversary of the country liberation, all the obstacles to the event should be removed.

All the Koreans in the North, South and overseas should turn out in a powerful struggle to check and frustrate the frantic anti-reunification confrontation campaign of the South Korean ruling quarters and have the "National Security Law" and other legal and institutional tools barring inter-Korean contacts and negotiations and the reunification eliminated.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, who enjoys deepest respect and trust from the fellow countrymen as the outstanding leader of the nation and the great heir to the cause of national independence, is leading the Korean nation's cause of independent reunification with matchless grit, distinguished strategy and unremitting efforts, regarding it as his lifelong mission to carry into reality the teachings of the great leader President Kim Il-song on the country's reunification. So the prospect of national reunification is bright and optimistic and the eternal prosperity and development of the country and the motherland is available.

A MINJU CHOSON editorial says all the Koreans in the North, South and overseas should turn out as one in a struggle to implement the ten-point programme under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and carry through the teachings of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the reunification of the country so as to reunify the country in the 90s without fail.

Tree-Planting Day Campaign Reported*SK0604102995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019
GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Korea marks the sixth of April as the tree-planting day each year.

The great leader President Kim Il-song on this day 1947, 48 years ago, climbed the Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and personally planted trees, unfolding a far-sighted plan to cover all mountains and hills with forests.

The nation's forests, at that time, were severely damaged due to the consequences of colonial plunder of the Japanese imperialists. To cap it all, they were completely destroyed by the indiscriminate bombing of the enemy during the three-year-long fatherland liberation war (June, 1950-July, 1953).

The Korean people has defined April 6, when President Kim Il-song started a great movement of creating forests in the fatherland, as the day of tree-planting, out of a desire to inform posterity of the day and commemorate it once and for all. With the day as an occasion, they have briskly conducted the tree-planting movement each year, turning mountains across the country into "golden mountain" and "treasure mountain" and covering streets and villages with green foliage.

This year, too, various segments of people such as workers, office employees, students and soldiers have planted a number of trees of high economic value including the pine-nut tree, larch tree and three-leaf pine tree, and created more forests.

According to data available at the forest conservation bureau under the general bureau of land administration, more than one hundred million trees have been planted on the area of 30,000 hectares throughout the country in recent 20 days.

The spring tree-planting assignments have already been carried out in many units including Mundok and Sokchon Counties in South Pyongan Province, Taedan, Pyoksong, Yonan, Samchon and Anak Counties in South Hwanghae Province, Tosan County, North Hwanghae Province, Cholsan County, North Pyongan Province and Tonghungsan and Hungnam Districts, Hamhung city, South Hamgyong Province.

The gardening of cities is progressing well.

This year, some 2 million trees have been already planted in streets, villages, parks and pleasure grounds across the country and green belts created on areas of hundreds of thousands of square metres in major industrial quarters and settlements.

Kang Song-san Plants Trees*SK0604144395 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Party and government cadres, along with working people from all walks of life, planted

trees at various places in Pyongyang on 6 April, marking the 48th anniversary of the day that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song planted trees at Munsubong after personally climbing up there as well as of Reforestation Day.

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrade Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; and functionaries and members of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea planted trees at Mangyongdae, a sacred place of the revolution.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade So Kwan-hui, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Hwan and Kim Yun-hyok, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Central People's Committee [CPC] Economic Policy Commission; and functionaries and members of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea planted trees at the Changsan revolutionary site.

Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Kim Cholman, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the CPC State Inspection Commission; Mrs. [sonsaeng] Yu Mi-yong, chairwoman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; and functionaries and members of the Korean Democratic Women's Union planted trees at the Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery.

DPRK Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Paek Hak-nim, vice marshal of the KPA; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Administrative and Economic Committee;

and functionaries and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea planted trees at Munsu-bong. [passage omitted on remarks on significance of Reforestation Day]

Hochongang Plant Continues To Surpass Quotas

*SK0504074295 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 4 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Producers of electricity at the Hochongang power plant are continuously effecting great results in producing electrical power in April in the same spirit that enabled them to surpass the electrical power production plan in the first quarter of the year.

In particular, the No. 1 and No. 4 generating facilities are exceeding their daily electrical power production quota at 105 percent or more everyday by tenaciously checking and repairing facilities and by operating at full capacity.

The No. 2 and No. 3 generating facilities are also producing more electrical power than planned by vigorously carrying out the struggle to guarantee effective operation of facilities at full capacity.

Mirim Electricity Producers Overfulfill Plan

*SK0504074195 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 4 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The working class in the Mirim lockgate power station is registering great achievement in electric power production by highly demonstrating the spirit of self-reliance in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the party founding with lofty political zeal and brilliant labor exploits.

Not satisfied with this achievement, the working class in the station has continually vigorously carried out the struggle to increase production, not easing the spirit with which the workers overfulfilled the March electricity production goal. Thus, they are fulfilling the monthly production plan by more than 4.6 percent each day as we enter the beginning of this month.

Meeting Marks Public Health Law's Anniversary

*SK0504053395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446
GMT 5 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held at the People's Palace of Culture on April 4 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the proclamation of the public health law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provided by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The public health law consummates the chuche-based public health idea of President Kim Il-song and its embodiment, the popular health policies of the Workers' Party and the government of Korea, and provides for all the principles and requirements for a flawless solution to the health question for the sake of the working people.

Attending the meeting were Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, personages concerned and medical workers in the city.

The attendants paid a silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song.

Vice-premier Chang Chol in his report at the meeting said the public health law is a true health code and a communist health programme for the people, which provides the people, by law, with the rights to enjoy complete free medical service without any discrimination, to have their health protected under the policy of preventive medicine and to benefit from various other forms of health care.

The reporter said signal achievements were made in health services under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and the vitality of the public health law was demonstrated. He went on:

With the public health law enforced, the medical workers gave full play to the communist traits of devoting their all to the lives and health of people.

With the party's policy of preventive medicine fully implemented, the historic task of freeing the working people from diseases is being carried out with credit.

New advanced methods of medical checkup and treatment have been applied in the health care and health services still further improved and strengthened by different means and methods such as the combination of Koryo and modern medicines and extensive utilisation of factors of nature in medical care. So, the people enjoy the benefits of free medical care to the full.

The number of doctors per 10,000 people is 29.7 and that of the hospital beds more than one hundred in Korea.

Medical research centres have been firmly built and the ranks of the researchers greatly improved qualitatively and the standard of the health care sharply raised by the scientific and technological results achieved by the medical scientists unfailingly loyal to the party.

The life expectancy at birth of the Korean people is 74.5.

South Korea

Foreign Minister Discusses Reactor Issue

*SK0604045795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea has no intention of taking part in the international project to build two light-water nuclear reactors for North Korea under the Geneva nuclear accord if North Korea refuses to accept South Korean-made nuclear reactors and South Korea's central role as

the main contractor in the reactor project, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong warned Thursday.

In a report prepared for delivery at a National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee meeting later Thursday, Kong reaffirmed that the Seoul government will take measures to quickly and effectively impose sanctions on North Korea in coordination with the United States, Japan, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other allies of the country if North Korea breaks the Geneva nuclear deal by defreezing its nuclear facilities after April 21, the target date set by the Geneva accord for the conclusion of a contract for the provision of nuclear reactors to North Korea.

Kong stressed that the government will stick to its position even when the North still refuses to accept South Korean standard nuclear power plants after the target date, adding that the government is prepared to deal with any tension on the Korean peninsula to be caused by the North's "brinkmanship" tactics.

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) has currently has six member countries—South Korea, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada—and several other countries including England, France and Germany are positively considering joining the international consortium, Kong said.

On the issue of the recent visit to Pyongyang by a Japanese parliamentary delegation on normalization talks, the foreign minister said that the government has taken issue with the timing of the visit as it was not good in view of the stalemate over the type of light-water nuclear reactors to be provided to the North.

While in the North, the Japanese delegation urged the North to resume inter-Korean dialogue and fully implement the agreed framework signed between Pyongyang and Washington in Geneva last October, according to Kong.

Noting that the Japanese parliamentary delegation agreed with North Korea that they will "recommend" that the Japanese Government resume normalization talks with North Korea, the foreign minister said that the Tokyo government has informed Seoul of its decision that the normalization talks will be proceeded in consideration of the pace of the implementation of the Geneva accord in order not to undermine Japan's friendly relationship with South Korea and the United States.

He also said that the Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is endeavoring to have a resolution banning the country to engage in any war adopted by the parliament before May when he will visit China.

Testifies at Assembly Committee

SK0604112895 Seoul YONHAP in English 1122 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Kong No-myong said on Thursday [6

April] the only way to resolve the controversial light-water reactors issue will be to let the North Koreans realize there would be no choice but to use a South Korean model and for South Korea to play a central role in the reactors project.

Testifying at the Assembly Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee, Kong said what is obvious is that there will be no reactors supply contract that disregards the stand of the South Korean Government.

"As long as North Korea does not retract the freezing of their nuclear facilities, we will try to resolve the issue peacefully through dialogue," he said.

As to the cost of the substitution energy the United States has been supplying to North Korea, Minister Kong said the expenses borne by the United States in this regard are included in the frame of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). But, South Korea won't share the cost, he said.

Russian Participation in Reactor Project Denied

SK0604071395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0705 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—A senior Seoul official on Thursday denied as groundless press reports in Japan and the United States that the United States is arranging for Russia to participate in the North Korean light-water nuclear reactor project in a bid to dissuade Russia from promoting a nuclear reactor deal with Iran.

"The allegation is a preposterous speculation that Washington is trying to supply a Russian-made light-water reactor to the North in an effort to keep Russia from constructing an atomic power plant in Iran," the official said. "The United States has made no enquiry with our government in regard to this matter."

"It is suspected that such reports are designed to disrupt the cooperation system South Korea maintains with its allies over the nuclear reactor issue," the official added.

Another government official said that one of the proposals North Korea made in their recent experts' talks with the United States in Berlin called for having Russia supply a light-water reactor to the North with its construction cost being offset by forgiving outstanding loans Russia owes to South Korea.

"But the proposal is not being considered by our side at all as its sincerity is doubted in light of various circumstances," the official said.

Some newspapers including THE NEW YORK TIMES have recently reported that Washington, in an attempt to resolve the issues of Russia's nuclear deal with Iran and the North Korean light-water reactor project simultaneously, has conveyed its willingness to Moscow to arrange for the latter to take part in the light-water reactor project in North Korea.

Agenda for 7 Apr Nuclear Reactor Talks Previewed

SK0604030395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0225 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 5 (YONHAP)—High-level officials of South Korea, the United States and Japan will meet at the U.S. Mission in the United Nations Friday afternoon to coordinate their positions regarding the provision of light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea under the agreement reached between the United States and the North in Geneva last October.

South Korean Nuclear Ambassador Choe Tong-chin arrived here Thursday afternoon for the meeting. His U.S. and Japanese counterparts are U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and Japanese Ambassador Tetsuya Endo.

At the high-level tripartite meeting, they are expected to review the proposals North Korea submitted at the latest round of U.S.-North Korea experts' talks held in Berlin last month and to make preparations for the next round of experts' talks slated to begin next week, also in Berlin.

The three nations are expected to stick to the principle of supplying South Korean-made reactors to North Korea, as set forth in the charter of the Korean peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), but North Korea's strong opposition has caused some quarters of the U.S. Government to voice the need for a compromise.

KEDO is an international consortium formed to oversee the 4.5- billion-dollar nuclear deal with North Korea.

So keen attention is being paid to what attitude the three countries will show towards this problem in Friday's meeting, diplomatic sources here said.

North Korea is known to prefer Russian-made reactors over the South Korean model and the U.S. Government is reportedly seeking to let Russia play a role in KEDO's reactor project in return for repealing its nuclear power plant supply contract with Iran. How the matter with Iran will be handled in the three-way meeting Friday will also be a matter of keen interest.

Because the delegations are scheduled to meet only two weeks prior to the April 21 target day for a reactor supply contract, it will prove an important watershed in the reactor issue.

North Korea earlier threatened to walk away from the Geneva agreement which stipulates North Korea must dismantle its nuclear facilities, suspected of being used to develop nuclear weapons, if a contract providing light-water reactors for the purposes of generating power failed to be concluded by the target date.

In reaction to the threat, Washington warned Pyongyang it would seek to impose international sanctions, including referral of the issue to the United Nations Security Council.

Following the meeting Friday, South Korea, the United States and Japan will meet again as KEDO executive board members to discuss the course of action KEDO should take in the future.

U.S. Embassy 'Lobbying' Against ROK Reactors

SK0604105495 Seoul YONHAP in English 1048 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—U.S. Embassy officials here have been lobbying against the use of the name of "South Korean standard model" light-water reactors to be built in North Korea under the U.S.-North Korea agreement, a senior ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] lawmaker said Thursday [6 April].

The legislator who wanted to remain anonymous said embassy staffs were urging some legislators of the Assembly Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee not to stick to the name of the Korean-style reactors.

"I myself met some U.S. embassy officials several days ago who tenaciously tried to persuade me, saying there is no need for South Korea to adhere to the name of reactors," he said.

The lawmaker said he understands the United States is going all-out to make South Korea give up the name of the reactors so as to make the U.S.-North Korea agreement a success.

The lawmakers American Embassy officials were meeting included some opposition solons as well, he said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Yi Se-ki of the ruling party said at the Assembly Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee Thursday there is the suspicion that the United States is trying to include the cost of the heavy oil it supplied to North Korea in the expenses of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) instead of bearing the expense itself as it promised initially.

Tensions Expected 'To Escalate' After 21 Apr

SK0604004495 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Kim Sung-yong]

[FBIS Translated Text] Expecting tensions to escalate on the Korean peninsula following 21 April, and diplomatic skirmishes [oegyojon] at the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to become more intense with the DPRK's unremitting rejection of the ROK-model light-water reactors, the government is making all-out efforts to consolidate a cooperative system with our allies.

N-S 'Tension' Blocking Investments in DPRK

SK0604034695 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Apr 95 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Yong-pae]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is expected to take a long time before South Korean businesses will be able to build large factories in North Korea's Najin-Sonbong free investment zone.

Tension building up between Seoul and Pyongyang over the issue of providing South Korean-made reactors to the North is indeed a major stumbling block to massive investment in the Najin-Sonbong region.

Should this stumbling block be removed in the near future, however, South Korean businesses would still find it impossible to go into the region with bigticket projects.

The problem is insufficient infrastructure, says a top executive of a South Korean business group, who returned from his recent trip to the region.

During his visit, he said, North Korea proposed his group build large factories to produce electronic products.

"We have come to a conclusion that we cannot build the proposed factories in the region because it lacks basic infrastructure," the group executive says.

He says he was shocked when he visited the Najin-Sonbong region in January.

"Can you imagine most buildings there have vinyl, not glass, windows?" he says, adding that the region lacked roads and communications systems, which are needed if large factories are to operate.

The executive, who asked for anonymity, says that he may be blacklisted by the North Korean authorities for his remarks if he is identified.

"That would have a bad impact on our group's prospect of doing business with North Korea in the future," he says.

His group, he said, plans to scale down its planned investment and build small hotels in the Najin-Sonbong region.

The group is one of the South Korean businesses seeking approval from the government for their plans to make direct investments in North Korea.

Four or five South Korean businesses, which completed feasibility studies last year and early this year, are planning to apply soon for permission to invest in the North, says an official from the National Unification Board (NUB).

The South Korean government said last month that it plans to approve at least one investment project during the first half of this year to spur inter-Korea economic cooperation.

It said it will also allow domestic businesses to open liaison offices in the North to facilitate their investment in and trade with North Korea.

Currently, inter-Korea economic exchanges are limited to South Korea's simple imports from the North and the North Korean processing of raw materials for the manufacture of products on commission from South Korean companies.

Inter-Korea trade conducted on the processing-on-commission (POC) basis has been particularly popular among South Korean businesses, whose corporate activities are not legally protected in the North.

South and North Korea have yet to conclude accords on investment protection and the avoidance of double taxation if they are to promote full-fledged economic cooperation.

South Korean imports made on the POC basis amounted to \$2.4 million in January, up 33.3 percent over the same month last year, according to a recent NUB report.

North Korea also favors this form of trade as it does not need direct contact between South and North Koreans at the factory level, which it fears would undermine its stability, says an NUB official.

"Under these circumstances, we can hardly expect inter-Korea economic exchanges will flourish in the near future," says the official.

South Korean businesses will have to start with small investments, he says, adding that the South Korean government is prepared to permit an investment even if its amount exceeds \$5 million.

"We will promote business links on a small scale with flexibility," says the official.

Official: Party Politburo in Control of DPRK

*SK0604032995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—North Korea is run by a group of members from the Workers' (communist) Party Political Bureau, not by Kim Chong-il alone, a ranking government official said Thursday.

This deserves attention because it is different from intelligence officials' view that Kim Chong-il is actually leading the communist country, though he has not yet formally risen to power after his father's death last July.

The official, speaking on a condition of anonymity, said he reached a provisional conclusion, after studying words and deeds of North Korean leaders after Kim Il-song's death, that a collective leadership made up of members from the Workers' Party Politburo, not Kim Chong-il, are in control of North Korea.

While Kim Chong-il has chiefly participated in military events acting in his duties as chairman of the National Defense Committee, Vice Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Pyong-sik have focused on international relations and diplomatic events.

Vice President Kim Yong-chu, younger brother of Kim Il-song, has appeared in domestic events only sporadically, refraining from making public appearances.

"This causes me to have a close watch on his activities," the official said.

The North Korean leaders' activities are principally role-sharing and the whole country is in the grasp of the Politburo, he remarked.

"North Korea's official announcements after Kim Il-song's death put stress on the late Kim and the party, and this makes it hard to view that power is concentrated in Kim Chong-il," he added.

Secretary-general Wataru Kubo of Japan's Social Democratic Party, who recently visited Pyongyang as a member of the ruling coalition's mission, said he got the impression that North Korea is in a situation that enforces the choice of collective leadership.

Kim Il-song's Nephew Emerging as 'Power Holder'

SK0604042295 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
6 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by reporter Ku Song-chae: "'Faceless Real Power Holder' in the North Is Kim Yong-chu's Eldest Son"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The eldest son of Kim Yong-chu, brother of Kim Il-song and vice president of North Korea, is rapidly emerging as a new real power holder in North Korea, thereby leading some to wonder if there are any difficulties in the establishment of Kim Chong-il's unitary system.

It was confirmed on 4 April that Kim Yong-chu's eldest son is Kim Chol-su, who has emerged as "a faceless real power holder" in North Korea following Kim Il-song's death.

One North Korea expert, who has recently been to the PRC, said: "I confirmed this during my stay in the PRC. The future status of Kim Yong-chu is noteworthy."

He noted: Kim Chol-su is two to three years younger than his cousin Kim Chong-il. He is a soldier with the rank of colonel general (right below full general).

Kim Chol-su was listed 23d on the list of the State Funeral Committee for Kim Il-song's funeral; and again 20th on the list of the Funeral Committee for the funeral of O Chin-u, who died on 25 February. This shows that he has rapidly emerged as a new influential man in North Korea. This notwithstanding, attention has been focussed on him because not a lot of information about him is available.

If a man is listed 20th in the power hierarchy, he can be said to be in a position of real power, similar to that of the candidate members of the party Political Bureau or of the party secretaries.

He emphasized: "While Kim Il-song was alive, Kim Yong-chu's son was not known to the public. But, following Kim Il-song's death, he has been publicly mentioned twice. This proves that a unitary succession system has not been established yet. It is now necessary to keep a close watch on the activities of Kim Yong-chu, Kim Chol-su's father."

Kim Yong-chu lost his political standing in 1975, when Kim Chong-il began emerging as a successor, but reemerged as vice president in 1993 after 18 years of absence. This has led outside observers to guess that he is in discord with Kim Chong-il over power.

Thailand on North Debt Payment, Rice Sale Link SK0504051995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0444 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, April 5 (YONHAP)—Thailand recently agreed to sell 300,000 tons of 35 percent white rice to North Korea on condition that the North begins paying a 23 million-U.S.-dollar debt for 100,000 tons of rice which the North purchased over the last two years, according to a local newspaper here Wednesday.

North Korea agreed to pay an earlier debt in steel through counter-trade and Thai Central Steel Co. had agreed to buy 300,000 tons of steel from North Korea to pay the money to the Thai Government, the English daily BANGKOK POST quoted Thai Foreign Trade Department's Director-General Oranuj Osatawanda as saying.

The daily also quoted Ms. Oranuj as saying that the first payment of 2 million dollars will be made by April 14 and a second installment of 1.9 million dollars will be paid on April 22.

After receiving the money, the daily said, the department will ask the public warehouse organization to deliver the first lot of 30,000 tons of rice to North Korea.

The chairman of the (North) Korea External Economic Commission Yi Song-tae had visited Thailand on Feb. 7 to meet with Deputy Commerce Minister Chaivot Sasomsub on the purchase of rice from Thailand.

At that time, Thailand agreed to provide 100,000 tons of rice to North Korea during April on credit terms with a two-year grace period.

It also agreed to sell additional 200,000 tons of rice to North Korea on a barter basis in which the North provides Thailand with hot-rolled steel, zinc and Portland cement in return for the rice.

The two sides, however, agreed at that time that any further transaction of rice should be made after the North pays the debt for the rice the North already purchased during the past two years.

The 35 percent white rice is a low-quality product consisting of 35 percent of normal rice and 65 percent of broken rice which is usually consumed by livestock in Thailand.

Defectors: North 'Famous' Writer Executed in 1991

SK0604081895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—North Korea executed in 1991 a scenario writer on the accusation that he had divulged the "top secret" about North Korea's invasion into the South in 1950, North Korean defectors here said on Thursday [6 April].

Kang Myong-to, 37, son-in-law of North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-san, and Cho Myong-chol, 36, a former professor at Kim Il-song University, said in a discussion session with journalists here concerning the execution.

They said Yi Chin-u, the most famous scenario writer in North Korea, who de facto leader Kim Chong-il thought very highly of, had the opportunity to listen to a tape which recorded a dialogue between the late North Korean leader Kim Il-song and Soviet leader Stalin in which they talked about North Korea's invasion of South Korea.

Yi was writing a scenario about the Korean war that broke out in 1950, and he obtained special approval from Kim Chong-il to enter the state archive which housed the secret documents and tapes about the Korean War.

Yi, who became aware of the fact that North Korea invaded the South, not vice versa, told what he learned to some of his colleagues while drinking with them. The secret police were then told of the leak and reported it to Kim Chong-il, Kang said. He was secretly executed.

North Korea experts here said they have just learned for the first time that the documents and materials related to North Korea's invasion of the South still exist in the state archive of North Korea.

Yi wrote the "Unknown Heroes," the most famous war movie in North Korea, and was writing "Red Maple Leaves" when he was executed.

The defectors said that economy-related officials including Prime Minister Kang Song-san and Vice Premiers Kim Pok-sin, chairman of the Light Industry Commission, and Choe Yong-nim, minister for the Metal Industry, are leading the discussions on opening and reform with the thought that North Korea can survive only if it pushes for opening and reform.

The thought is also spreading to senior-level officials, they said.

Currently in North Korea, they said, some vice minister-level officials in Kim Chong-il's office have the most power and of them Kang Sang-chun is the most powerful. Kang has worked for Kim Chong-il for 15 years so far and is free to enter any place in North Korea, according to the defectors.

U.S. Agricultural Negotiations Request Refused

SK0604040395 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Government has decided to refuse the U.S. official request for speedy negotiations on the customs clearance of U.S. agricultural products, which the United States requested as an emergency step before filing a complaint to the World Trade Organization [WTO]. The reason for the refusal provided by a relevant ROK Government official today was that the speedy negotiation requested by the United States is an emergency step for the priority resolution of an issue when the cause of the dispute is not resolved, and is not applicable to this case. This case should be resolved through normal bilateral negotiations between the ROK and the United States.

The official said that the U.S. agricultural products in question already cleared customs, and the cause of the dispute no longer exists. The official pointed out that in order to prevent the recurrence of such a dispute, the customs clearance system will be revised beginning this April, and that the United States has been informed of the decision.

In the event the ROK accepts speedy negotiations, one of the steps for filing a complaint to the WTO, the ROK has to send a reply within 10 days from the date the United States requested the negotiation, and when negotiations between the ROK and the United States break up, the case will be eligible for a formal complaint.

Seoul, U.S. Review Combat Reinforcement Plan

SK0604062295 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Kim Min-sok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula surrounding the negotiations for the supply of light-water reactors to North Korea, both the ROK and the United States are amending and reinforcing "the plan for increasing combat power (TPFDL) [Time Phased Forces Deployment List]" to drastically reinforce combat power on the Korean peninsula.

It was also learned that, with a view to strengthening ROK-U.S. joint defense capabilities, the United States intends to complete the work of revising "the operational plan No. 0000" by the end of June.

On 6 April, a relevant official in the Ministry of National Defense [MND] said that the MND is drastically revising and reinforcing the basic plan to deter a North

Korean provocation against the South. He explained that this work is focused on amending the previous operational plan, which was intended to gradually deploy U.S. Seventh Fleet troops and equipment within a few days in case of an emergency, so as to make it possible to deploy U.S. troops and equipment from other areas.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet Command is known to have six carriers capable of loading 80 to 100 airplanes; 41 submarines, and 53 cruisers and destroyers. This amounts to half of the overall U.S. maritime combat power. It was learned that the United States is reviewing a plan to deploy 240 fighters and bombers under the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command in the event of an emergency.

Ministry Begins Military Countermeasures Review

SK0604003295 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Kyong Yong-won]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 5 April that in connection with heightened tension due to North Korea's refusal to accept the ROK-model light-water reactors, the Ministry of National Defense [MND] has initiated a review of military countermeasures [kunsajogin taeung pangan] such as a coastal blockade, which the MND began implementing last year to prepare for UN Security Council steps for sanctions. The MND has also recently started to work on supplementary work for these countermeasures.

A high-ranking MND official revealed that "since Pyongyang is to hold the 'international sports and culture festival' late this month, tensions are likely to come to a head in early May." He added: "To cope with this, the military is reviewing military countermeasures which it began implementing last year, and has initiated supplementary work for these measures."

Meanwhile, the ROK and U.S. Armed Forces are planning to stage a large-scale "RSO [range support operation] exercise"—mock training for receiving reinforcements of troops and equipment of the U.S. Armed Forces from the U.S. mainland to deploy to the frontline on the Korean peninsula.

Army Chief of Staff Remarks on Combat Readiness

SK0504074095 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
5 Apr 95 p 2

["Gist" of Special Directive issued by Yun Yong-nam, Chief of Staff of the Army of the Republic of Korea, to subordinate units on 4 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] Analysis of the recent security situation on the Korean peninsula indicates that in spite of the fact that all nations of the world are pursuing peace and advancing on the road of reconciliation, only

North Korea is engrossing itself with the fantasy of achieving national reunification by communizing South Korea with military superiority. Furthermore, North Korea is excluding the ROK and adhering to dialogue only with the United States, thus heightening tension on the Korean peninsula.

After North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1993, it threatened to make Seoul a "sea of fire," and rejected North-South dialogue while holding U.S.-North Korea talks. By deploying 170-mm self-propelled artillery and 240-mm reactionary guns in areas close to the DMZ, North Korea created military tension and threatened the safety of the ROK capital.

Since North Korea-U.S. nuclear negotiations were settled in Geneva on 21 October of last year thanks to the joint efforts of the ROK and the United States for a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear problem, we have been under the impression that the North Korean nuclear problem was being smoothly resolved. However, North Korea has constantly heaped verbal abuse on our highest commander with vicious curses which one can hardly reiterate, and committed acts of instigating an antigovernment movement to overthrow our government.

The ROK is to shoulder most of the expenses needed in the construction of light-water reactors in the DPRK and thus is expected to play a central role in the course of building light-water reactors. Thus, "accepting the ROK-model light-water reactors" amounts to basic common sense. Nevertheless, North Korea brought up various sophisms in the course of North Korea-U.S. nuclear negotiations, and rejected our proposal for resuming North-South dialogue. Moreover, North Korea did not hesitate in posing a threat to us by claiming that it will be ready for war in the event that the 21 April deadline for the signing of an agreement on the supply of light-water reactors is not met.

We have assumed a full combat readiness posture in order to immediately counter any provocation which North Korea may perpetrate at any time and to cope with North Korea's threat.

We should reexamine our posture by formulating a substantial war implementation system so as to be prepared to launch immediate countermeasures at the initial stage of combat and should readjust our combat positions in order to annihilate the enemy's main forces. We have thus promoted night-time combat capabilities and special warfare capabilities to secure emergency combat forces. We have also reorganized our supply of combat equipment, including mobilization equipment and fire power.

We conducted real war-like training ranging from the level of the individual soldier to the higher commands. As a result, we have attained the maximum readiness in combined combat capabilities. We have assumed thoroughgoing combat readiness to fulfill assigned missions under any emergency situation.

Thanks to our devoted efforts, the people's trust in and love of the Army have increased more than ever before. I firmly believe that as long as the people fully trust in our Armed Forces' capabilities and have the will to cope with outside threats in firm unity between the Army and civilians, we can insure security of the nation and win victory in any emergency.

Officers and men of the Army, you should have the confidence and the firm resolution to dedicate your body and soul to fulfilling the mission to defend our nation by maintaining a sense of sure victory under any circumstance. You should cope flexibly with changing situations. Only the strong survive and only those who are prepared can become masters of the new era.

Seoul Denies Plan To Host World Cup With Japan

SK0604111195 Seoul YONHAP in English 1044 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has never studied co-hosting the 2002 World Cup Games with Japan nor would study it in the days ahead, a senior government official said Thursday [6 April].

Culture and Sports Minister Chu Ton-sik told a press conference that some reports of a Korea-Japan co-hostship being under review have nothing to do with his government policy.

"It is rather natural that the 2002 World-Cup matches should be hosted exclusively by South Korea," Chu said. "We are all prepared for the 2002 World Cup and we see no reason why we should host it jointly with Japan."

The recent remarks by Korean Football Federation President Chong Mong-chun about joint hostship did not mean that Korea is interested in joint hostship but that Korea should be prepared against any idea of co-hostship, Chu said.

Masan To Receive Russian Carriers for 'Scraps'

SK06041111395 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Two decommissioned Russian carriers are waiting for the defreezing of sea at a Siberian harbor and expected to be brought into the Masan Harbor either late this month or early May, a trade firm here said Thursday [6 April].

The Young Trading Co., which has bought the carriers, said the two Russian carriers, formerly "Minsk" and "Novorossiysk," will be disintegrated at its own plant near Masan into scraps.

Commenting on some foreign press reports that the carriers may be used for military purpose, a company official rejected it as "ridiculous." "All we are bringing in are huge piles of scraps," he said.

Since the carriers have already been stripped even of the engines let alone all weapons and major equipment, the carriers will have to be towed all the way from a Siberian port to Masan, the official said.

The two carriers will be cut into scraps of less than 200 tons each in four to five months for supply to local steel companies and exports to the abroad, he said.

Korea Land Development Reaches Accord With PRC

SK0604032095 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English 6 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The state-run Korea Land Development Corp. (KLDC) yesterday concluded a formal agreement with the Chinese city of Shenyang to set up a Korean industrial estate in the Shenyang Economic and Technical Development Zone.

The Shenyang development project is the second Korean industrial estate in China following the ongoing industrial park in Tianjin.

Under the pact, KLDC will acquire the right to use 427,000 sq. meters (129,000 pyong) of land in the zone for 50 years in return for land use charges totaling \$4.76 million, a KLDC spokesman said.

Yi Hyo-kae, KLDC president, and Zhang Xizhi, general manager of the Shenyang Economic and Technical Development Zone, signed the agreement in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

"The Korean industrial estate in Shenyang will be able to accommodate about 50 Korean companies, mostly smaller firms engaging in electric, electronics and machinery businesses," the spokesman said.

KLDC plans to spend about 8.5 billion won on the development of the Shenyang industrial park for exclusive use by Korean companies by the end of 1996.

The state-run land development company said that it will sell the factory sites in the Shenyang industrial park to Korean investors at a cost of development, about 69,000 won per pyong. One pyong equals 3.3 sq. meters.

The sales price is compared with 81,820 won per pyong for local investors in the Korean industrial estate in Tianjin, whose construction work is now 80 percent finished and is due for completion by the end of this year.

"Depending on the results of land sales, we plan to develop an additional 150,000 pyong of land in the Shenyang economic development zone," the KLDC spokesman said, adding that in selling the factory sites, companies from Kyonggi Province will be favored. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Kyonggi Province established a sisterhood relationship with the Chinese province of Liaoning, which has Shenyang as its major city.

Shenyang was picked as the site for the second Korean industrial park as it is a political, economic, cultural and transportation center with convenient highway, railroad and air connections, according to KLDC.

Among Shenyang's other advantages are plentiful electricity, industrial water, good basic industrial infrastructure and an ample workforce, it said.

KLDC concluded a basic agreement with the Russian Federation to set up a Korean industrial estate in the Nakhodka Free Economic Zone last month.

It also plans to enter a formal agreement for the use of the land needed for the development of an industrial park in Hanmi, Vietnam, next month.

Cabinet Divided Over Dual Nationality to Koreans
SK0604095895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The cabinet is split as to whether or not overseas Koreans should be granted dual nationality.

Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Pak Un-so said Thursday [6 April] he would soon discuss the matter with the vice finance-economy and justice ministers.

Pak's ministry is studying a plan which will grant selected overseas Koreans dual nationality in an attempt to lure overseas Korean "brains" into the country for use in industrial development.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party is behind this plan, but the Justice Ministry strongly opposes it, arguing granting selected overseas Koreans dual nationality would probably be unconstitutional.

In addition, granting all overseas Koreans dual nationality would pose problems in controlling overseas Koreans working in the country when they arrive and leave the country.

Some related agencies including the Finance-Economy Ministry have expressed a view that the proposed granting of dual nationality has more disadvantages than advantages. Abuse of the system for preferences in military service, education and taxation would outweigh the advantages of securing advanced manpower from Korean residents living abroad, they say.

In light of this, the International Trade and Industry Ministry and other ministries involved are planning to work out a formula permitting dual nationality to qualified ethnic Koreans abroad, while leaving no room for violations of the constitution.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry disclosed that Japan, though formally opposed to the dual nationality system, in fact approves of dual nationalities in an effort to secure quality manpower from ethnic Japanese living overseas.

Vice Minister Pak told a meeting of 50 top groups on wage policy held Thursday that a formula is being sought under which double nationality will be recognized for those overseas Korean residents working at home as highly-skilled scientists and technicians and such preferences as employment and industrial disaster insurances are accorded them.

More Foreign Workers Planned for Small Firms
SK0604082195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Suwon, Kyonggi Province, April 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Thursday [6 April] the government will allow more foreign workers to visit the country to gain employment in a bid to resolve manpower shortages facing small businesses.

He made the remarks while visiting the Kyonggi Province government on a leg of his new year inspections tour of province and large city governments.

Noting Kyonggi Province accounts for 23 percent of the nation's total small and medium-sized businesses, Kim stressed the need for those employing foreign workers to accord the same treatment to them as it does to local workers.

Foreign workers must be treated as humanely as local workers, because the international community has made an issue of the poor treatment foreign workers receive in South Korea, he added.

DLP Criticized for Appointment of Kim Sok-won
SK0504013195 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shortly after he took office in February 1993, President Kim Yong-sam said he would not receive a penny from businesses. He urged businessmen to devote themselves to corporate management, instead of seeking political connections.

President Kim's remark was a message that the government and its party would separate politics from business and would not tolerate plutocracy, or government by the wealthy. But the ruling Democratic Liberal Party was blamed for backtracking from the separation of politics from business when it appointed a business tycoon as one of its local district chapter chairmen yesterday.

Kim Sok-won, chairman of the Ssangyong Business Group, the sixth largest conglomerate in Korea, who was named chairman of a local chapter in Taegu, is set to run in the parliamentary election next year. His appointment by President Kim, who also heads the ruling party, is in sharp contrast with the alleged persecution of Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, who was defeated in the 1992 presidential race. President Kim's government prosecuted Chong on charges of violating the election law and denied his business group

large, low-interest and long-term loans from the Korea Development Bank until recently.

The ruling party, however, went ahead with the appointment of Ssangyong Chairman Kim to win an election where it is unpopular although it anticipated severe criticism from opposition parties. Many of the voters in Taegu and the province surrounding the metropolis, North Kyongsang Province, are turning their back to President Kim and his party, whose stronghold is the rival region of Pusan and South Kyongsang Province.

Opposition parties attacked the appointment of the Ssangyong chairman to head the ruling party's Talsong chapter in Taegu, the chapter his father had held until 1971 when he was forced out because of a dispute with the then President Pak Chong-hui.

The main opposition Democratic Party said it is opposed to the Ssangyong chairman's appointment. Rep. Pak Chi-won, spokesman of the Democratic Party, claimed the appointment represents "collusion between power and chaebol (family-controlled conglomerate), which has been the greatest source of corruption in the nation." Recalling the strong terms President Kim used to criticize the founder of the Hyundai Business Group for running in the 1992 presidential election, Rep. Pak said, "It is immoral for the ruling party to appoint Ssangyong Chairman Kim as one off its local chapter chairmen." He also accused the Ssangyong Business Group of seeking gains the "father-to-son succession of collusion between political power and business."

The opposition United Liberal Democrats, a new party created by Rep. Kim Chong-pil, former chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, also attacked the ruling party's appointment of the Ssangyong chairman as an immoral act.

One of the leading members of the United Liberal Democrats, Rep. Ku Cha-chun, is set to compete against Ssangyong Chairman Kim in the 1995 parliamentary elections.

The government and its party, which have succeeded in wooing the reluctant chairman of the Ssangyong Business Group into their camp, defended their action when they said every man, be he a businessman or not, has a constitutional right to political participation.

The participation of a leading businessman in formulating economic policy will enhance the level of domestic politics, said Rep. Kim Tok-yong, secretary-general of the ruling party.

Rep. Pak Pom-chin, spokesman of the party, said his party criticized the Hyundai founder for running in the 1992 presidential election because he mobilized human and material resources of the business group for his campaign in violation of the election law. But the Ssangyong chairman's admission into the ruling party is different from the Hyundai founder's case, Rep. Pak

said, adding that an attack from opposition parties is their political offensive for nothing.

Ssangyong Chairman Kim, who is now caught in the cross fire between the rival parties, reportedly turned down the ruling party's overture to appoint him head of the Talsong chapter several times before accepting it. News reports said he even showed his father's will advising him against becoming a politician when leading members of the ruling party urged him to join the party.

Though he joined the ruling party, the Ssangyong Business Group said, he will continue to manage the group and retain his post as chairman. He will make decisions on the group's major projects, including one concerning the production of passenger cars in 1997.

'Significance' of Research Reactor Discussed

SK0604034195 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TAEDOK SCIENCE TOWN—After 10 years of construction, a 30 megawatt-class multipurpose research reactor will be dedicated tomorrow at the Taedok Science Town near Taejon, about 160 km south of Seoul.

The "Hanaro" reactor which costs 100 billion won (about \$125 million) is the first ever large-scale research reactor built in the nation's 36-year-long atomic energy history.

There are two small research reactors at the Seoul branch of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), the first research reactor Triga MK-II with 250 kilowatt capacity and Triga Mark III with 2 megawatt capacity which went into operation in 1962 and 1972 respectively.

"Among others, the significance of the reactor lies in that Korean researchers have succeeded in designing and building such a large-scale reactor on their own without the technical assistance of advanced countries," said Kim Pyong-ku, who is in charge of the KAERI's research reactor development.

Hundreds of nuclear-related personalities will attend the dedication ceremony at the KAERI headquarters. Among them are Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Chong Kun-mo, minister of science and technology and Sin Chae-in, the KAERI president.

As the nation's nuclear power program expanded rapidly in early 1980s, there was a need of a new research reactor with intensive neutron sources to support nuclear research and development activities, and medical and industrial applications of radioisotopes.

Currently, there are about 320 research reactors in operation worldwide and among them, those with more than 10 megawatt capacity number about 50.

The construction of Hanaro enables South Korea to pile up invaluable technological expertise in making a reactor, the core part of the nuclear power plants. Thus, it laid a foundation for South Korea to build commercial reactors which have so far depended on imports.

The newly-constructed reactor will be used for examination on irradiated reactor materials and nuclear fuels and silicon doping for semi-conductor production, as well as producing radioisotopes.

Above all, the operation of Hanaro will help the nation to sharply increase the local supply rate of radioisotopes which have so far depended 99 percent of the demand on imports. The production of such key radioisotopes as Tc-99, I-131, Ir-192 and Co-60 will raise the local supply rate of radioisotopes to 40 percent, which will bring about 3 billion won of import substitution effect.

The initial fuel loading started Feb. 2 and the first criticality achieved Feb. 8. Hanaro with the maximum available thermal neutron flux of $5E14$ nv uses 20 percent uranium-silicide fuel.

It is an open-tank-in-pool type, which allows free access from pool top and sufficient inventory of ultimate heat sink. It uses H₂O as a coolant and H₂O/D₂O as a moderator, and has a large D₂O reflector around the core to prevent escape of fast and epithermal neutrons for sufficient irradiation.

'War of Nerves' Said Waged by Seoul Dailies

SK0604033995 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Apr 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leading dailies in Seoul have been waging a war of nerves since CHUNGANG ILBO, an evening paper, announced its shift to a morning paper beginning April 15.

Many industry insiders predict a considerable change in the market when CHUNGANG starts publishing in the morning.

CHUNGANG owned by the nation's largest business group, Samsung, has initiated bold changes in newspaper publication. Last year, it introduced pull out sections in this country, publishing separate business, sports and other sections everyday to increase its total pages to 40 or 48.

This attempt has worked so far. Almost every daily now publishes some kind of sections.

CHUNGANG is also introducing the concept of quality control in production of newspapers for the first time in Korea. These initiatives are totally different from tradition. In Korea, newspapers were supposed to function for social justice only, not for commercial purposes.

A recent dispute between CHUNGANG and two morning dailies, TONG-A ILBO and HANGKUK ILBO, should be understood against this backdrop.

The dispute was ignited by a front page story in CHUNGANG March 24 about a recent poll made by Korea PC Telecom among its HITEL subscribers.

The paper reported that CHUNGANG had been chosen by most people (30.5 percent of the respondents) as the most comfortable paper to read.

This story bought immediate resistance. Against usual practice, in an editorial the next day, HANGUK attacked the newspapers run by business conglomerates for ignoring the "principle of fair competition" and leading a "limitless war among newspapers."

Though it did not specify the name, CHUNGANG, the story was apparently aimed at the evening paper.

HANGUK also charged that CHUNGANG had not fulfilled its function as a daily and instead, had worked for the interest of its mother group, Samsung.

TONG-A, on the same day, published a story on the dispute between the German office of Samsung Electronics Co. and its German employees.

HANGUK and TONG-A ran stories about "wrongdoings" by various Samsung subsidiaries for several more days.

According to reports by a journal of the Korean Journalists Association [KJA], they even suspected possible manipulation by Samsung or CHUNGANG of the survey result and investigated whether employees who subscribe to HITEL might have participated in the survey en masse.

CHUNGANG did not print any response to these stories but had to send officials to HANGUK and TONG-A to apologize, the KJA journal said.

The immediate controversy seems to be over but fierce competition among the dailies is still raging under the surface.

HANGUK's accusation that CHUNGANG is destroying order in newspaper business is related to recent rumors on CHUNGANG's scouting of personnel in the business of distributing dailies.

To secure its distribution network, CHUNGANG is reportedly contacting people in the newspaper distribution business in local areas to persuade them to work for CHUNGANG with higher salaries.

The company is allegedly offering more money to transportation companies to deliver its paper instead of others, the KJA journal said.

Whether these rumors are true or not, the entry of CHUNGANG will certainly have a profound effect on the morning daily market, already engulfed in fierce competition.

In Seoul, seven general papers are published in the morning—CHOSON, TONG-A, KYONGHYANG, HANGUK, SEOUL, HANGYORE and SEGYE.

CHOSON, without doubt, is enjoying the highest circulation though the exact figure is not made public yet.

CHUNGANG, in view of its bold marketing strategy backed with strong financial capability, however, is expected to encroach on its market share to a considerable degree.

Moreover, with sports and business sections, the daily is targetting the readers of sports and business dailies.

People expect CHUNGANG's entry to affect HANGUK more than CHOSON. HANGUK, however, had already suffered when TONG-A switched to a morning paper in 1993.

Observers say the fierce competition among dailies in Seoul is partly attributed to the government's decreasing role in mediating the mass media.

President Kim Yong-sam invited publishers of major dailies to Chongwadae [presidential offices] Feb. 4 and asked them to refrain from increasing pages considering the ever worsening problem of the shortage of paper.

According to a magazine in Seoul, the publishers of CHOSON and CHUNGANG refused to comply.

In fact, the two soon after added a tabloid section.

In addition, the Korean Newspapers Association, which is made up of newspaper publishers, has completely lost its function of mediating conflict among newspapers since the government virtually opened newspaper publication to everybody in 1988.

In a recent interview, Information Minister O In-hwan said it is difficult for the government to stick to its old policy of limiting the participation of big business groups in newspaper operation.

He said the Korean newspaper market will be completely open to foreign media sooner or later. In that case, only the companies backed with good financial capability will survive, O said.

CHOSON, TONG-A and other Seoul dailies, in fact, have already become media conglomerates.

***Legal Experts Discuss Judicial Reform Process**

952C0082B Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
27 Feb 95 p 17

[Panel discussion: "Task of Judicial Reform: 'Monopoly, Oligopoly of Legal Service Market Should Be Changed By All Means' ... 'Law Education Needs to Be Reorganized into One Centering on Graduate Schools'"—attended by Yu Pyong-hwa, professor of the Korea University law school; Han Ki-chan, lawyer, and Yu

Chae-hyon, secretary general of Kyongsillyon; edited by reporters Kim U-sok and Chong Chol-kun]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a judicial reform package currently being prepared by the government will reportedly be disclosed in about April, along with an education reform program including law school normalization plans, it is drawing attention from both inside and outside the legal profession. Separately, the Supreme Court and the Korea Bar Association respectively set up their research bodies to draw their independent plans. As the judicial reform debate thus takes on an increasingly serious tone, the arguments are likely to heat up. CHUNGANG ILBO, through a seven-part series beginning on 14 February, showed its view on tasks confronting the reform and alternatives. Completing the series, here is an account of a panel discussion by experts from fields concerned on the desirable directions of the reform. (Editor)

—Prof. Yu Pyong-hwa: The present law education is not a normal one; most of the students at the 84 law schools across the country are preoccupied with their preparations for the state law exam. Even if schools create English or international law classes to help students be better prepared for internationalization and globalization, students would not take them unless they are included in compulsory subjects for graduation. In addition, of the 300 successful applicants who pass the exam every year, more than 70 are not law school graduates. They are from special prep schools devoted to cramming-method preparations for the exam. As a result, they lack the understanding of basic jurisprudence such as the philosophy of law.

—Atty. Han Ki-chan: What we know now is that our law schools will very likely be reorganized into a graduate school-type system similar to law schools in the United States. However good it may be, however, it is problematic to adopt that system as it is.

Therefore, if that system should be adopted as it is, it is bound to fail, I think.

Especially, whether all our law schools across the country could shift to the new system is in doubt. So, considering the current university resources, it is necessary that we have a minimum preparatory period of 10 years.

—Sec. Gen. Yu Chae-hyon: It is not what kind of education system we choose that is important. The important thing is to create conditions needed for the normal conduct of education. In this process, it is absolutely necessary to gauge public opinion through broad-range debates by academic circles, the bench and bar, and citizen groups.

—Yu Pyong-hwa: Unless the present state law exam system is revised to produce more successful applicants progressively, the law school education cannot be normalized. Under the U.S. system, students, after studying various subjects for four years as undergraduates, proceed to graduate schools of law by surviving a stiff, difficult competition, in order to pass the bar exam.

At a time when reform for internationalization has become the order of the day, we have no time to waste clinging to the existing judicial system. It is indeed a foreign system, but if it is a good one, we should adopt it promptly and make it ours even if it means a measure of confusion in the process, shouldn't we? However, if a chaotic situation is anticipated in the process, it may be a good idea to consider plans to give nonlaw school graduates open access to law schools and to lengthen the term of study of law schools to six years.

—[Moderator] Along with the law school reform, the number of lawyers has become an issue. The number of people in the legal profession, lawyers in particular, is so small that it keeps the lawyer's fee exceedingly high and access to legal service extremely narrow. The public is unhappy about it. Would you move on to that point, please?

—Han Ki-chan: I admit that lawyers are under fire from the public because they have been doing their business by sheer force of habit and failed to offer clients quality service. However, increasing the number of lawyers and lowering the lawyer's fee alone is not a key to judicial reform.

In our country, besides lawyers, there are as many as 14,000 people in semilegal professions, including legal officers, patent attorneys, licensed tax accountants, and labor affairs officers. Add them to the numbers of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers we have today, and the total number comes to more than 20,000, which is by no means a small number compared with Japan's 22,000. Also, it is a matter we cannot ignore that a rapid increase in the number of lawyers could lead to adverse side effects, including resistance by those in semilegal professions. With regard to the high fee issue, it involves only those lawyers who are granted privileges of their former posts, who represent about 5% of the total number of lawyers. Even in the United States where the fee is known to be lower, it varies infinitely, doesn't it?

—Yu Chae-hyon: Although I generally agree to the argument that the number of lawyers should be increased to get the fee decided by market forces, there is a need for supplementary measures to remedy the ills of moneyless clients being shut out of quality service. In the United States, too, the lawyer's fee is considerably high except for that of counsels in simple cases, despite the huge number of lawyers in that country. Consequently, the problem of "the rich getting away with a not-guilty verdict and the poor ending up with a guilty sentence" would surface frequently. When the monopoly or oligopoly is broken and, at the same time, the market economy principle is applied to get the prices decided on a self-regulatory basis, it will be absolutely necessary for the government to take supplementary measures to protect the consumer interests.

—Yu Pyong-hwa: It is necessary to change by all means the current monopolistic or oligopolistic system of the

legal job market that limits to 300 the number of successful applicants of the state law exam. The number should be increased over 1,000, and prior to the opening of the law business market, lawyers currently operating on a "small-time" basis should switch to a large-scale, corporate-type practice of law. Especially, if the number of lawyers increases, it is expected to push down the initial pay for them drastically from the present 4 million to 5 million won, prompting talented people to seek jobs in the government and big businesses.

Specialization of the legal profession and expanding it in size stands as an inevitable requirement in preparing for the market opening. Under the present system, lawyers in this country would be able to handle only simple cases, leaving legal advisory jobs for businesses involving huge value-added and international cases to be handled by foreign law firms.

—Yu Chae-hyon: The fact that the attraction of the lawyers profession is too big in terms of job security, social standing, and compensation is also a problem. The process of reform should be accompanied by an effort to readjust levels of social expectation toward judges, prosecutors, and lawyers to more realistic ones. Furthermore, if we should adopt a U.S.-type law school system and launch into a mass production of lawyers, without also changing other systems and conditions accordingly, the possibility is high of the graduate school of law entrance examinations degenerating into a primary test permanently.

—Han Ki-chan: The notion that if we have more lawyers, we will be able to have better legal service for less money is wrong. Although I have no objection to the argument that the number of lawyers should be increased in stages, I must say that a hasty increase is problematic. Not only the number of lawyers but the numbers of judges and prosecutors—who are in great shortage—should be increased, too.

In short, if the number of lawyers should be increased unconditionally, without first creating the required environment by resolving questions involved, e.g., obligations of lawyers in employment of 800 listed companies, and compulsory designation of counsels in state administrative litigations, it will inevitably lead to excessive competition and to chaos and side effects from it.

—[Moderator] I understand that the proposed reforms include the unification of the legal system envisaging the selection of the judiciary from the bar, namely, appointments of experienced and competent lawyers as judges and prosecutors. Would you comment on this?

—Han Ki-chan: The system is already in place in countries having UK- or U.S.-type legal systems. Japan also had recognized its superiority and attempted to adopt the system in 1964, but failed to do so because of opposition from the courts and prosecutors.

In the United States, federal court judges are appointed from among lawyers with experience of a minimum of 20 years. That is because broad experience and knowledge accumulated while in service as lawyers are naturally significantly instrumental to passing fair judgment. If this system is adopted, it could resolve, to significant degrees, the controversial issue concerning lawyers who are granted privileges of their former posts.

—Yu Chae-hyon: In view of the needed improvement in the qualifications of judges and prosecutors, I think it would be appropriate to bring in that system. Under the present circumstances, however, it is doubtful if competent lawyers would be willing to give up their present jobs to become judges or prosecutors whose salaries are relatively lower. Therefore, the introduction should not be a hasty one; there should be sufficient time for a debate on merits and demerits.

—Yu Pyong-hwa: The job of judges and prosecutors is to settle various disputes of other people or try them in criminal cases. Their profession requires a thinking power more comprehensive than any other professions do. If this system is adopted, it will go a long way in correcting irrational situations such as a judge in his twenties presiding over a divorce suit involving a couple in their fifties.

—[Moderator] Finally, what do you think about the method and speed of the bar reform?

—Yu Chae-hyon: I believe that there is a public consensus that the bench and bar should change. However, if anyone should attempt to carry out a perfect reform within this year, he would find it difficult to win national approval, I think. There is the need to determine the direction of reform first, then adjust its speed, through adequate debates.

—Han Ki-chan: I find myself in a difficult position as the reform is focused on issues involving the number of lawyers and their fees. The reform should cover the courts, prosecutors, and law school education, as well as lawyers. Considering that the present system has its reason and justification for its existence, I see a gradual approach to reform as desirable.

—Yu Pyong-hwa: If a consensus is reached, reform should be carried out boldly and rapidly even if it means some confusion and side effects. First of all, the number of lawyers should be increased to break the present state of monopoly or oligopoly and the legal service market should be reorganized in the interest of customers. That, I believe, will lead to gradual resolution of the issues of the unkind, arrogant courts and prosecutors and the lawyers' high fees.

Burma

Opposition Groups Vow To Carry on Struggle

BK0504104395 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
5 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's political opposition has vowed to carry on its war for democracy with Rangoon, despite the potential loss of military support and protection from ethnic Karen and Mon rebels.

"Our allies are talking to the junta about cease-fire," Maung Maung Aye, Information Minister for the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), said yesterday.

"But for the future, the democratic alliance will continue to fight," he said.

"There will be no cease-fires for us," echoed Aung Htoo, first secretary of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), the largest of the student dissident groups which have battled the Rangoon junta since it seized power in 1988. But officials acknowledge that the political opposition has a lot to lose if the Karen National Union (KNU) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) lay down their arms. The anti-Rangoon movement has been shaken since January, when junta soldiers overran the Mannerplaw headquarters of the KNU.

The Karen, the largest armed insurgent group in Burma, moved last month to enter peace talks with the junta. The Mon followed within a week. Some 14 ethnic rebel groups have already signed peace agreements with Rangoon, in exchange for limited autonomy and development assistance. But the disarming of the KNU and the Mon would be a crucial blow to Rangoon's armed political opposition, which has often depended on transportation through, or safe haven within, rebel-held territory.

Mannerplaw, the KNU's headquarters for more than a decade, was a centre for political opposition, including the umbrella NCGUB.

They are our close allies and they have their reasons for talking to the junta," Aung Htoo said. "But we don't believe that the ceasefire agreements are genuine or that they will last."

The ABSDF suffered a severe military setback in February, when its own headquarters at Dakwin was overrun. Burma's state-run media claimed that 70 insurgents, many of them ABSDF fighters, surrendered to authorities that month.

Aung Htoo dismissed suggestions that the morale among the opposition was slipping.

Khun Sa Aides View Move To Join Future Union

BK0604083895 Bangkok THE NATION in English
6 Apr 95 p A6

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of Golden Triangle warlord Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army (MTA), Burma's largest resistance movement in Shan State, to join the future union of Burma was made late last year in a resolution passed by members of the Shan National Congress.

The congress, which was established in December 1993, and whose 70 members represented various townships in Burma's northeastern Shan State conferred in late November to deliberate on the future of Shan State.

Congress members agreed in that plenary meeting that Shan State would opt to join Burma rather than seek the historical legal rights to secede from the Southeast Asian nation.

The decision was a clear departure from the MTA's previous stance to fight for the complete independence of the Shan State, where the majority of the people are ethnic Shan, an ethnic brethren of the Thai people, who enjoyed freedom and autonomy until Burma's independence from Britain in 1948.

Kheunsai Jaiyene, a leading MTA member and a close aide of Khun Sa, told THE NATION in an interview yesterday that the Shan congress issued a resolution dated Dec 1, to express its decision to see the Shan State join the union of Burma.

Kheunsai said the decision has not yet been officially passed on to the Burmese junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), which has pledged to crush Khun Sa and his MTA.

Slorc, which has opened peace talks with over a dozen armed ethnic groups active along the Burmese border, has repeatedly rejected dialogue with the MTA, dubbing the group a drug trafficker.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Sao Gunjade, chairman of the Shan National Congress and Khun Sa's right hand man, said the issue of Shan State joining the union of Burma has to be settled "at a negotiating table, not on bloody battle fields."

Thai border authorities said yesterday that they were surprised to hear the MTA's proposal to join Burma, as the decision "is the most important shift from the previous MTA stance."

They said they have yet to see a response from Slorc to the MTA's olive branch, which came at a crucial time as Rangoon had publicly announced its intention to launch a massive military offensive against it.

With the two remaining active ethnic guerrilla groups, the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party, preparing to enter or conclude peace talks with Slorc, Burma analysts predicted the MTA would be Slorc's next target.

Gunjade has warned that the MTA, which has "troops operating in two-thirds of the whole area of Shan State,"

will retaliate with urban guerrilla assaults if its headquarters at Homong, about 30 km from the Thai border, comes under attack.

He said the only concern he has in the event of any Burmese attack is the safety of the civilian population and their properties. The MTA forces, which operate as mobile guerrilla units and could easily disperse into the jungle.

The MTA gave Slorc a slap in the face last month when its commando unit launched a successful raid into the Slorc controlled border town of Tachilek, killing several Burmese troops.

Kheunsai has killed speculation that the MTA and Slorc have already opened a peace dialogue to end the war in the strife-prone state. He said those who approached Burmese authorities were individual citizens who had no connection with the MTA, nor any authorization from the group to negotiate with Slorc.

The MTA, said Kheunsai, wants to include political agendas in its peace talks with Slorc and will pursue a two-pronged approach in its peace deal, including attack and negotiation, until a peaceful settlement is achieved.

However, he cautioned that conflict is never the best means to resolve any dispute. "Military activities and political work have to go along side (by side). If we can talk, then we don't have to fight," he said.

Gunjade defended the MTA's involvement in the narcotics trade, saying the major transporters of the drugs are groups "allied" with the Burmese authorities. He cited the Ka Kwe Ye [local militia], which was established by Rangoon in the 1970s as a local self-defence force, and armed ethnic groups which have struck ceasefire agreements with Rangoon, as examples.

He played down the role of the MTA in the trade, claiming they only tax the groups who transport drugs through their territory and are given safe passage by the Burmese authorities.

He said the drugs are bought by traders, transported by ethnic groups that have struck ceasefire deals with Rangoon, and safety passes issued by the Burmese authorities.

"So it is preposterous to put all the blame on the resistance. If we are to be blamed, it should only be for the last factor, not the rest," said Gunjade.

He added the MTA was "ready to cooperate with any organization, including the Burmese government, for the cause of drug eradication."

National Convention Plenary Session Resumes

*BK0504153795 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese
0630 GMT 5 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held at 0900 at the Central

Conference Hall in the President's Residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon].

It was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, deputy chairmen of the commission and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; U Tha Tun, deputy chairman, and committee members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Management Committee, and committee members; National Convention delegates; and local and foreign journalists.

U Kyi Nyunt from the National Convention delegates group representing national races, acted as alternate chairman. Dr. Than Nyunt, member of NCCWC and U Lei Kwe Chin from the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, U Maung Gyi from the Union Pa-o National Organization, U Tin Maung Kyaw from the group representing peasants, U Bo Myint from the group representing workers, U Hla Myint from the group representing technocrats and intelligentsia, U Ant Maung from the group representing public servants, and U Ko from the special invitees group acted as members of the Panel of Chairmen. U Khin Maung Myint, director general for meetings from the Office of the NCCWC, acted as secretary for the meeting.

The secretary first declared the plenary session open and valid since 637 out of the 683 delegates were in attendance. The findings of the Panel of Chairmen on the proposal reports submitted by National Convention delegates groups on detailed basic principles for prescribing self-administered divisions or self-administered zones, which are to be included under the chapter on state structure in the state constitution, were presented at the plenary session. The findings of the Panel of Chairmen on the proposal reports were explained by U Tin Nyunt, alternate chairman; U Hla Myint from the group representing technocrats and intelligentsia; and U Tin Maung Kyaw from the group representing peasants. The meeting was then briefly adjourned at 1015.

When the plenary session resumed at 1030, the findings of the Panel of Chairmen on the proposal reports were read by U Maung Gyi from the Union Pa-o National Organization and U Ko from the special invitees group. The plenary session was briefly adjourned at 1115.

It has been learned that the afternoon session of the plenary session of the National Convention is continuing at the Central Conference Hall in the President's Residence compound on Yangon's Ahlone Road.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore Malaysia

Mahathir Announces 6 Apr Parliament Dissolution

*BK0504092195 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in Malay 0900 GMT 5 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Parliament will be formally dissolved tomorrow to pave the way for the ninth general

election. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed announced this at a news conference held at the Prime Minister's Department in Kuala Lumpur today. He said that the dissolution of the parliament had been approved by the Paramount Ruler, Tuanku Jaafar. [passage omitted on constitutional rules for elections]

Defense Minister Meets Singapore Counterpart

BK0404045195 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak says Malaysia and Singapore are set to expand their defense ties. He said that the establishment of the bilateral defense forum would boost military ties.

[Begin Najib recording in progress] ...one of the steps that we have taken is to conduct a joint military exercise that will include the Army, Air Force, and Navy. This will be a larger exercise than the one conducted so far between the single services of Malaysia and Singapore. [end recording]

Earlier Najib received a courtesy call from outgoing Singapore Chief of Defense Forces Lieutenant General Ng Jui Ping. He said that talks are underway between the two countries to cooperate in establishment of a defense equipment industry and to improve interaction between military officers of both countries.

Over 300 Former SDP Members Join Chinese Association

BK0504103795 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 300 members of the now deregistered Socialist Democratic Party, SDP, have joined the Malaysian Chinese Association, MCA. Among them are former members of the SDP divisions in Selangor, Perak, Johor, and the Federal Territory.

MCA President Datuk Sri Dr. Ling Liong Sik announced this at his office in Kuala Lumpur today. Welcoming the new members, he said their admission to the MCA would further stabilize the party. He said they could be useful in helping with the election campaigns. Dr. Ling said the MCA is a party comprised from various levels of Chinese society and it continues to upgrade the living standard of society. He criticized the leaders of the Democratic Action Party, DAP, who often made slanderous remarks about the government while lacking any initiatives to improve the living standard of the Chinese community.

Dr. Ling said that more former SDP members are expected to take the positive step of joining the MCA. Dr. Wong, a former SDP Central Executive Committee member, said that application forms for joining the MCA will be distributed throughout the country tomorrow.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Returns From Medical Treatment in PRC

BK0504121295 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen returned to the Kingdom of Cambodia at 1600 today. The king had received medical treatment in Beijing for more than two weeks. On hand at Pochentong International Airport to welcome their majesties were Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, and his wife; His Excellency Sar Kheng, deputy prime minister and co-interior minister, and several other officials, members of the royal family, and diplomats. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Reaffirms Son's Death by Khmer Rouge

BK0504120295 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 April His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk signed a press communique, the contents of which are as follows:

My son, Naradipo, was killed by the Khmer Rouge in 1975 or 1976. The man who is currently claiming that he is Naradipo is a vile impostor. Physically, this man is completely different from my late son. People who knew my son and who saw the impostor say the latter's physical characteristics are completely different from those of the real Naradipo.

Official Discusses Border Disputes With Thailand

BK0304134595 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 2 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Samret Sar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Authorities in Koh Kong claim that Thai troops are in control of three positions located over 1 km from the Cambodian-Thai border in Koh Kong Province. It is also believed that Cambodia has lost 50 percent of its territorial water boundary, which has been unilaterally demarcated by Thailand.

Concerning the Cambodian-Thai border problem, Pal San, first deputy governor of Koh Kong Province, told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA that three areas in Koh Kong Province have been violated and seized by Thailand. These three points are located at Tra Ngaol near the Kbal Chhay River and near the Khao Vong region. He claimed that the three areas that have been taken over by Thai troops were previously under the control of the armed forces of the former State of Cambodia. He added he did not know why these positions were later taken over by Thai troops.

Pal San went on to say that according to the concerned authorities, permission must have been given by the Koh

Kong authorities; otherwise, the Thai troops would not have taken over these areas.

The deputy governor claimed that the Thai troops are violating Cambodian territory because these areas are over 1 km from the formerly demarcated border line.

Pal San also claimed that Cambodian territorial waters have been violated by Thailand since time immemorial. Cambodia has lost approximately 50 percent of its former boundary line due to unilateral demarcation by Thailand.

Pal San recalled that Kut Island was formerly regarded as the demarcation line of Cambodian territorial waters. Thailand has now claimed territorial waters halfway from Kut Island to Koh Kong. Access to this region by the Cambodian side has been rejected.

The border problem has always been the most complicated problem for Cambodia. Our border lines with Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand have reportedly been moved deeper inside Cambodian territory by these neighboring countries. The loss of border territory, whether large or small, is seen as a result of our country's weakness and lack of defense capability. Local authorities also seem to overlook this matter, claiming to do so for the sake of friendship. For its part, the government has never carried out any clear study or indicated that such violations have really taken place.

The Cambodian Government will meet with the Thai side in April to discuss the territorial waters, which contain oil deposits. No mention has been made of the possible outcome of the discussion, however.

Commentary Urges Khmer Rouge To Surrender

BK0504115795 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 95

["Political commentary:" "It Is Becoming Increasingly Unfavorable—To Survive You Must Surrender"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In addition to signing two agreements with Thailand during his three-day official visit to the Kingdom, accompanied by nine ministers and several other high-ranking officials, Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], spent 90 minutes consulting with Chuan Likphai at the Government House in Bangkok. On that occasion Chuan Likphai once again promised full support for the RGC. The prime ministers of the two countries firmly believed that their consultations would contribute to the rapprochement between the two countries, which previously had tense relations over a number of issues. In the talks, Chuan Likphai informed Samdech Hun Sen that the problems along the 800 km common border could be settled through principled and mutually sincere discussions. Chuan went on to say that it was natural for countries sharing a long common border to

encounter some difficulties controlling it. A Thai Government spokesman said Cambodia and Thailand would jointly examine all existing problems, especially border problems.

Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen also thanked Thailand for severing all relations with the Khmer Rouge rebels and adopting a gentle and humane attitude toward Cambodian refugees who cross the border to escape the clashes between government forces and the Khmer Rouge. Samdech Hun Sen also proposed that the Thai side disarm any Khmer Rouge rebels who cross the border into Thai territory and hand them over to the Cambodian Government. Chuan Likphai replied that Thailand does not support the Khmer Rouge rebels who have attempted to depose the present legal government.

Also concerning this military topic, Thai Army Commander Wimon Wongwanit said Thailand will appoint a military attache to Phnom Penh to be sent here in the near future. Although he did not name the person who will assume the military diplomatic post in Cambodia, the Thai Army commander affirmed that this appointment will help promote military relations between the two countries. Wimon also contended that Thailand does not maintain relations with the Khmer Rouge.

All of this reflects the resolute determination of the two countries to turn their common border into a border of friendship and peace. It conforms with Article 53, Chapter IV of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Constitution, which clearly stipulates: The Kingdom of Cambodia adopts a policy of permanent neutrality and nonalignment. The Kingdom of Cambodia follows a policy of peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and with all countries throughout the world.

Political analysts have predicted that if Thailand adheres to what it said during the consultations between the prime ministers of the two countries, the handful of Khmer Rouge rebels still clinging to their enclaves along the common border should be shaking with fear. When they came under attack in the past, the Khmer Rouge fled across the border to save their lives. From now on, however, the situation will be unfavorable. To survive, the rebels who still hold the Pailin and Phnum Malai regions should promptly surrender to the RGC, which is pursuing his majesty the king's policy of national reconciliation.

Khmer Rouge 'Cabinet' on Government's 'Collapse'

BK0504104595 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

["Press communique" issued by the Secretariat of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation cabinet on 3 April; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] held its weekly working session on Monday,

3 April, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, prime minister and minister of the National Army, and with the participation of all its members.

I. According to reports from all localities and circles in the countryside, Phnom Penh, and abroad, it is as clear as daylight that the two-headed government is heading toward total collapse.

1. Politically and socially, the two-headed government is decaying through and through. The entire Cambodian nation and people decry it and resolutely oppose it in all places and in all circles, fighting against it repeatedly and constantly. The two-headed government has already been condemned and convicted by our nation and people for betraying the country, warmongering, murdering the nation and people, sabotaging national reconciliation and peace, authorizing communist Vietnam to commit genocide against Cambodia, and allowing the villainous alliance to scramble and tear at Cambodia with impunity. It is also extremely rotten and utterly obnoxious and stinks in every aspect and sector. It has corrupted and defiled the Cambodian nation and people's culture, fine traditions, and immaculate norms and customs. Millions of Cambodians—men and women, young and old alike—are suffering from all kinds of social diseases, especially AIDS, which will seriously upset the Cambodian nation, people, and race for generations to come.

2. Economically and financially, the two-headed government has nothing left. It is extremely destitute. In the past, its bosses provided it with money by the shipload, but it has proved entirely unworthy. Millions of people have gone hungry and many have starved to death. Civil servants lead a miserable life, like turtles in the desert. As for soldiers and policemen, they have been making a living from robbery; systematically robbing other people. Sometimes it takes four to five months for them to get their monthly pay because their corrupt superiors withhold it for their own benefit. Now that its bosses have stopped wet-nursing it, the two-headed government has been forced to go begging, but all in vain. Anyone it approaches sends it away, showering it with aspersions and blows. The few foreigners who have come to invest are pulling out one after another.

3. Militarily, the two-headed government is suffering utter defeat on all fronts. It has been utterly defeated on the northern as well as northwestern battlefields. As a result of this defeat, it has no men left—neither officers nor rank and file—with which to fight. This defeat has crowned the end of the 17th dry season. Not only has the two-headed government failed to achieve its objective of fighting the people and liberated zones of Democratic Kampuchea, but its manpower has been fundamentally scattered and decimated. During the 16th dry season, 60-70 percent of its manpower was scattered and decimated and it lacked troops to a certain degree. It tried hard to round up the few remnants of its troops and secondhand commanders to launch an adventurous campaign during the 17th dry season. It has again suffered a

thorough and crushing defeat, but this time it has fundamentally lost its manpower. The two-headed government's doomsday has arrived.

II. Why is the two-headed government's life so short?

1. It is because this government has betrayed the country and murdered its own nation and people. It has served the war of the communist Vietnamese aggressors as well as that of the alliance. It is extremely and thoroughly corrupt.

2. It is because the entire Cambodian nation and people—including those in the countryside, Phnom Penh, and abroad—have resolutely opposed and rejected it. Our brothers have fought against it resolutely, again and again, closely adhering to a correct and effective line.

3. It is because people in the region and the world oppose war and wish for genuine national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia so there can be stability, a prerequisite for regional and global development.

Can anything save the two-headed government in view of its betrayal of the country, murder of the nation and people, and thoroughly rotten nature; given the impetus of the vigorous, tenacious, and consistent struggle of the Cambodian nation and people; and under the growing anti-war attacks launched by the people in the region and the world? Nothing can. Its bosses are tired and disheartened. They clearly see that the extremely criminal strategy of forcibly conceiving the two-headed government for use as a tool of war to murder the Cambodian nation and people has suffered a crushing defeat.

III. Our Cambodian people's struggle for national and racial salvation is developing in the best possible way. It is gaining the edge over the enemy in every aspect and sector. It is thus imperative for all of us to continue heightening our militant heroism and fight even more actively and effectively to end the war of the communist Vietnamese aggressors and that of the alliance and two-headed government quickly. The two-headed government is sinking beyond all hope. The genuine national reconciliation and peace that our country and people want and have been fighting for over the past 16 years will surely be achieved in the very near future. Nothing can prevail over the forces of the Cambodian nation and people, who are basing themselves on guerrilla and people's warfare and self-reliance in their resolute struggle for national and racial salvation.

Monday, 3 April 1995

The Secretariat of the PGNUNS cabinet

KR Radio: Thai Forces Capture Government Troops

BK0604060095 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 April, the two-headed government sent its demoralized troops with the support

of several tanks and artillery pieces to launch a two-pronged attack against us. The first prong came from the east, inside Cambodian territory, and the second prong slipped into Thai territory in an attempt to attack us from behind.

The invading forces could not get through our first mine and punji stake field; 12 of them were killed and 19 others wounded on the spot. The remaining troops were scattered into small groups. Our National Army is pursuing them as if they were hunting deer. Two of their tanks, abandoned by their ground troops, were damaged while retreating across our minefield. In sum, on 2 April we completely routed and chased away the two-headed government's invading forces on the Sisophon-Poipet battlefield. We killed or wounded 31 enemy soldiers and damaged two tanks or armored personnel carriers.

As for the enemy troops that slipped into Thai territory to attack us from behind, they were routed; 100 were reportedly caught and blindfolded by Thai troops while retreating.

KR Commentary Derides Hun Sen Visit to Thailand

BK0504105995 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Thai Businessmen Ridicule the Traitor Hun Sen, Saying No One Wants To Invest Under the Two-Headed Government Because it Is Extremely Corrupt, Follows the Law of Bandits, and Is Facing Collapse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two-headed government, which follows the law of bandits and is extremely corrupt, is collapsing and decaying through and through. In order to prolong its life a little more, communist Vietnam and the villainous alliance sent the traitor Hun Sen to Thailand to beg for two favors, asking first for the opening of border passes and second for investment by Thai businessmen because his government is completely broke and starving. No matter how hard he pleaded and implored, though, no one paid any attention. He got nothing but empty words. The border passes remain closed and the businessmen merely scorned and ridiculed him.

1. The two-headed clique needs the reopening of the border passes, especially the vital passes of An Seh, O Smach, Boeng Trakuon, Poipet, and Koh Kong. Observers are well aware that in asking for the reopening of these passes the two-headed government is mainly aiming to attack the resistance forces, conduct contraband activities, and launch robberies against Thai villagers. The Thai authorities refuse to reopen these passes because the two-headed government has not yet made any clarification or given any files on the killing of Thai civilians and soldiers at An Ma and elsewhere.

2. The two-headed government has asked Thai businessmen to invest because it is in serious need of foreign capital. This is because fewer people are willing to risk their lives for them. Moreover, the few existing investments are being withdrawn one after another. Also, when it begged foreign countries for investment at the recent conference in Paris, no one gave it anything but blows and charges that the two-headed government had auctioned off Kompong Som [Sihanoukville], the seas, and forests to dishonest traders. Thai businessmen scoffed at the traitor Hun Sen, telling him no one wants to risk their life for the two-headed government, which is so corrupt and uses the extremely fascist law of bandits to terminate contracts; expel investors; and rob foreign companies, banks, and personnel. Who wants to risk his life if there is no law in the country and anyone can be imprisoned without trial on flimsy charges of staging a coup d'etat? More importantly, who wants to go and die under the two-headed government when it is completely decaying and collapsing like this?

Some people wonder: The two-headed government used to be so arrogant and insolent toward Thailand, why is it now crawling so basely before Thailand and begging for small coins? The answer is that the two-headed government is losing. It is in a hopeless situation, is decaying through and through, and is heading toward total collapse. Everybody sees this and is aware of it. The Cambodian people are aware of it and so are people and countries in the region and the world, particularly businessmen. Businessmen will not risk their capital on the two-headed government, which has become virtual carrion.

In short, the two-headed government is getting nothing for its efforts. It has no alternative but to collapse completely in the very near future. All traitors are destined for a short life and an unnatural death.

Indonesia

Foreign Minister Meets With German Counterpart

BK0504034595 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has expressed interest in President Suharto's efforts to solve the Bosnian issue. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this to reporters in Bonn after he held talks with the German foreign minister. On the new visa regulation adopted by seven countries, namely the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Spain, and Portugal, the German minister said his government will continue to adopt regulations based on reciprocity. Minister Alatas said even though Portugal may make things difficult for Indonesia with the new visa regulation, other countries friendly to Indonesia will not harm Indonesia's interests.

Official Says Troops Ready To Serve in Bosnia

BK0404102895 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Indonesia is ready to send more personnel to Bosnia even though it had earlier assigned a medical battalion and a team of military observers in that country. Speaking in Bandung yesterday, Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung said preparations are being made for the Ujung Pandang-based Kostrad [Army Strategic Reserve Command] battalion consisting of engineering and combat troops to be sent to Bosnia and the government is now waiting for a UN directive to do so. He said the United Nations will decide the departure date and where the forces will be deployed in the former Yugoslavia state. The UN peacekeeping troops usually serve between six months and one year and the Indonesian contingent is expected to serve in Bosnia for nine months.

Suharto Urges Deregulation, Increased Efficiency

BK0504105595 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 3 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta—President Suharto says that Indonesia's economy still faces bureaucratic obstacles despite the country's economic deregulation policies. This leads to an inefficient economy as a result of the relatively high production costs and low competitive edge of our products. To cope with the problem, the president believes the government must initiate more economic deregulation measures.

The head of state said this in a written message read by Jakarta Metropolitan Governor Suryadi Sudirja during a ceremony to hand over the development project list for FY 1995-96 at Jakarta City Hall on Friday (31 March). The president also mentioned the tough challenges and hurdles in developing the country's economy.

Global economic challenges are by no means easy to handle. "The unstable international monetary situation has caused turmoil in some countries' foreign exchange rates," the president said.

International economic instability is also reflected in the unstable price of commodity goods. At the same time, some developing countries have indicated that they have achieved a certain degree of success in their development programs. "As a fellow developing country, we rejoice at their success," the president said. These countries will soon become Indonesia's competitors, however, producing new commodity goods and selling them on the world market. Many of their commodity goods are similar to Indonesia's, meaning that Indonesia will face tougher competition. Therefore, the president reminded those concerned to use hard-earned development funds wisely.

The head of state believes there is ample opportunity to boost national development during the second year of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan. Every country

understands the importance of a more open and free trading system. "To enable us to seize opportunities, we must make our economy more efficient and increase the competitive edge of our export commodities.

Army Chief Warns of Danger From Timor Group

BK0604061095 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1211 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Magelang, 5 Apr (ANTARA)—General R. Hartono, Army chief of staff, has instructed all regional military commanders to make a list of GPK [security disturbance movement] leaders to cope with the potential outbreak of new incidents following the Liquica case in East Timor. The Liquica incident is believed to have been instigated by a GPK clandestine group.

"The clandestine group in East Timor is more dangerous than ordinary ones," the Army chief of staff said after attending a ceremony to install the new governor of the Armed Forces Academy in Magelang on Wednesday. Gen. Hartono said the clandestine group is a two-faced movement in the sense that they pretend to get along well with the authorities while actually supporting the GPK. The four-star general added that these people have abused the facilities and position given to them by the government.

Gen. Hartono said there are three types of GPK in East Timor; namely, coarse [korsa], cellular, and clandestine groups. All of them are armed troublemakers, but the clandestine group mixes freely with the public and is hard to detect.

"The clandestine group may be civil servants or private citizens, but in reality they support the GPK. This is no small matter and requires our great attention," he said. [passage omitted]

Soldiers React to Liquica Findings

BK0504161395 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Dili, Tuesday, MERDEKA—The soldiers, who are based in East Timor, were not frustrated over the outcome of the DKP (Honorary Officers Council) findings on the Liquica incident. General (Army) R. Hartono announced the findings in Jakarta on Monday (3 April). They warmly welcome whatever action is taken by the ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] leaders against them in connection with the incident.

Speaking to MERDEKA on Monday (3 April), Col. [Colonel] Kiki Syahnakri, commandant of the Wira Dharma Regional Command said: "My comments? The soldiers will accept any action against them because that is the risk they face while carrying out their duties. A calm mind is needed and there is no reason to feel frustrated."

When announcing the DKP's findings on Monday, the Army chief said there was a mistake in carrying out the procedures during the 12 January 1995 Liquica incident and the superiors were accused for carrying out the action against those who were detained.

The commandant of the Mobile Parakeet Patrol team, who was given the order to arrest the GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] members, was also believed to have wrongly executed his orders because no reports were made to his superiors regarding the incident.

The two soldiers, who allegedly committed the criminal acts, will be handed over to the POM (military police). Should the investigations conducted by the military police prove that they positively violated regulations, then their case will be brought before the military court. Speaking in terms of the DKP's findings, the regional commander said: "I think the case will become clearer and more open in the court regarding what actually happened."

When asked about the possibility of sentences being passed on the two soldiers, Col. Kiki said: "That is a risk they have to face, but the soldiers spirit will not waver because of their solemn Sapta Marga [soldiers vow] in whatever manner the case was to be tried. Definitely, there will be a certain degree of moral degradation within the military team in East Timor but their spirit will again be rekindled."

Kiki also stated that Maj. Gen. [Major General] Adang Ruchiatna, 11th Udaya regional commander, urged the ABRI troopers in East Timor not to be hesitant in carrying out their good work and to remain unaffected by any influence whatsoever.

Meanwhile, when contacted by telephone at his residence in Liquica, some 38 kms west of Dili, Lt. Col. (Infantry) Tria Suryawan A., commandant of the 1638 Military Command in Liquica, was reluctant to make any comments regarding the DKP's findings. Speaking briefly, he said: "I have no reason to make any comments."

The commandant was the official who issued the orders to conduct investigations and apprehend the GPK members after receiving reports that a GPK group was operating in his territory. He said: "Even though the GPK members were found to be unarmed—let alone trying to arrest them alive, they would be shot if they try to run away or retaliate after being involved in riots. As such, we need to be very careful because the GPK is strong and has sufficient weapons to counter any operation."

It was later learned that the Parakeet Team received an order to carry out an armed encounter with the GPK, which resulted in the death of six of its members.

45 Students Arrested at Press Freedom Rally

BK0504103195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT
5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, April 5 (AFP)—Around 45 students were arrested following a demonstration in support of press freedom at the prestigious Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in the Central Java city, Yogyakarta, a lawyer said Wednesday.

The Yogyakarta office of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) has taken up the case but is yet to receive information from police on the charges against the arrested demonstrators, an institute lawyer, Ari Suseta, told AFP by telephone.

Police at the Yogyakarta regional police headquarters refused to confirm the arrests.

The city's journalists said they were barred from entering the compound of the police headquarters and checking on the arrested people.

A participant in the demonstration told AFP that the students and other activists who began the protest at the university, decided to march four kilometres (2.48 miles) to the regional parliament in the city centre.

About half way there around 50 police officers blocked their path, hit a number of students and took two truck-loads of demonstrators away, the participant said.

The demonstration was proceeding in an orderly manner and was not disturbing traffic when it was stopped, he said.

The students voiced support for three members of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) arrested in Jakarta last month as well as for press and academic freedom in general, sources in Yogyakarta said.

Arrested Students Released

BK0604060895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0324 GMT
6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, April 6 (AFP)—The 45 students arrested during a demonstration in support of press freedom at Yogyakarta's prestigious Gadjah Mada University (UGM) have all been released, legal aid sources in the Central Java city said Thursday.

"What is certain is that at 9:00 o'clock this morning, the 45 students who had been detained were already freed from the regional police headquarters," a staff lawyer at the Legal Aid Institute (LBH), Budi Santoso, told AFP by telephone.

Santoso said it was not yet clear if legal charges against the students would be pursued.

Police on duty at the regional headquarters in Yogyakarta refused to confirm the release.

The demonstration on Wednesday involved about 200 students and activists who tried to march from the main UGM campus to the regional parliament. It was forcefully stopped halfway by police, who broke up the demonstration and made the arrests.

The demonstration was in support of three members of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) and one member of the outspoken PIJAR Foundation who are still in detention after being arrested here last month in a crackdown on groups publishing unlicensed magazines.

It also supported press and academic freedom in general, sources in Yogyakarta said.

1994-95 Inflation Rate Set at 8.57 Percent

BK0504085995 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1656 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 4 Apr (ANTARA)—The Finance Ministry issued a press statement on Tuesday stating that the inflation rate for the 1994-95 fiscal year (April 1994-March 1995) was recorded at 8.57 percent, which was higher than the inflation rate of 7.04 percent recorded for the 1993-94 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate for March 1995 was recorded at 0.57 percent. Details were also given regarding the inflation rate of several groups, namely, food, which stood at 1.7 percent; clothing at 0.34 percent; and services and miscellaneous goods at 0.04 percent. The rate for the housing sector dropped to 0.34 percent.

The inflation rate of 3.04 percent for the first three months of the 1995 calendar year (January-March 1995) was lower than that of the corresponding period in 1994, which stood at 3.71 percent.

Laos

Foreign Minister Assesses Policy Achievements

BK3003175595 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Mar 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat by unidentified National Radio reporter on party's foreign policy—recorded; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our Lao People's Revolutionary Party has set forth a correct and just foreign policy. Despite the complicated changes in the world and the different regional situations, our party has adopted a foreign line in conformity with the practical conditions in the country and the conditions of the epoch on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, cooperation for mutual benefit, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Our party and government have restored and expanded relations and cooperation with fraternal countries while expanding economic relations

and cooperation with foreign countries. As of today, the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] has maintained diplomatic relations with 87 countries and maintained relations with more than 50 international organizations. From 1986 until the present, foreign investors have invested in a total of 544 projects worth \$5 billion in our country. Somsavat Lengsavat, our foreign affairs minister, gave an interview to our National Radio reporter on our party's foreign policy as follows:

[Begin Somsavat Lengsavat recording] In fact, over the past 40 years, our party had led our country to greater and greater victories one after the other in carrying out the revolution. In the field of foreign affairs, we see that since its founding, the party has all along put forth appropriate domestic and foreign policies. As we all know, when the party was founded in 1955, our country was faced with external intervention and aggression. With the said situation, our party had to show its talent and clear-sightedness in adopting a suitable foreign line. As our party already had a correct domestic foreign policy, it adopted a correct foreign policy. With the appropriate domestic and foreign policies, our country has gained support and sympathy from friendly countries in the world. Having the support of friendly countries throughout the world, we then marched forward from the position of being weak to a position of being strong. And with the success of our revolution, various countries have recognized our revolution [words indistinct].

Immediately after the establishment of the LPDR, our country became a member of the United Nations. Various countries that maintained diplomatic relations with our country have continued to maintain normal relations. From 1975 until the present, whatever the world situation, as our party has pursued a correct foreign policy, we have acquired a larger number of friends. Now, in the new stage of restructuring, with the appropriate foreign policy and with a larger number of friends, we have gained more support and assistance—in the form of loans, gratis aid, and other forms—from foreign countries. The volume of foreign investments has also increased. For ourselves, pursuing this new line of restructuring, we have even broadened our foreign activities under many forms. It can be said that under the party's leadership, the correct foreign policy has served as a significant factor contributing to defending and building our country. We are convinced that with this correct policy, we will certainly achieve ever greater success in carrying out our just cause.

We have now made many friends both near and far. Of these, we have maintained and enhanced the fine relations of traditional friendship and special solidarity with Vietnam. We have promoted and expanded relations in all respects with the PRC. We have also implemented a good-neighborly policy with other neighboring countries. We are glad to note that with our good understanding with the friendly countries, we have been able to successfully solve problems that were left behind by history, such as the border problems between Laos and Vietnam,

Laos and China, and Laos and Myanmar [Burma]. Following the settlement of the problems, borders have now been demarcated and boundary posts have been planted. We are also happy to see that our relations with Cambodia—our friendly, neighboring country with which we have maintained traditional relations since ancient times—have been increasingly developed. Our two countries have respected each other's independence and sovereignty, and our two peoples have now regularly exchanged visits. With Thailand, another neighboring country, we see that our relations have improved step by step. We can say that our country's relations with Thailand have reached a peak following the exchanges of visits between the heads of state of the two countries. As we know, last year His Majesty the King of Thailand visited our country, and recently, our president also paid a reciprocal visit to Thailand. This has brought about good understanding between the two countries. In addition to the neighboring countries, we have maintained relations with each of the ASEAN member countries as well as with the ASEAN as a whole.

In addition to the countries in this region, we have maintained relations with other countries in Asia, the Pacific, Europe, and America. The relations with these countries have been broadened with each passing day. As of today, our Lao country has established diplomatic relations with more than 80 countries. Our country is also a member of many international organizations. We have also won support and assistance from a considerable number of nongovernmental organizations. We consider the relations with the aforesaid foreign countries as a significant issue. It has helped our people develop the economy, thus enabling our country to free itself from an underdeveloped state. [end recording]

New Minister Assumes Duties in PM's Office

BK0604032295 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A ceremony was held at the Prime Minister's Office [PMO] on the afternoon of 4 April to transfer the ministerial duties of Phao Bounnaphon, former minister attached to the PMO, to Khamsai Souphanouvong, the new minister of the PMO. The transfer was carried out in accordance with a decree issued by the president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 3 March 1995 and a decision reached by the National Assembly on 28 January 1995.

During the ceremony, Phao Bounnaphon signed a book transferring a number of documents to Khamsai Souphanouvong, who will henceforth assume all rights and duties of the office. Attending the ceremony were high-level officials attached to the PMO.

Philippines

Ramos Stresses Peaceful Spratlys Solution

OW0504150295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, April 5 KYODO—Philippine President Fidel Ramos on Wednesday said

his government will continue its "determined diplomacy and dialogue" with China in addressing the issue of Chinese intrusion in the Philippine-claimed islands in the Spratly chain.

"The Philippines continues to be committed to a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflicting claims in the South China Sea," said Ramos in a statement on the recently concluded discussion between Chinese officials and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Beijing rejected calls for multilateral talks among the six members of ASEAN during a meeting held in Hangzhou, China this week.

It was the first ASEAN-China senior officials meeting to discuss political and security matters in the region.

The Hangzhou meeting was expected to find a starting point in settling the row over the South China Sea islands, claimed in whole or in part by the Philippines, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Ramos said that ASEAN, as a group, and China made their respective positions clear to each other during the Hangzhou meeting.

"While there was a better understanding of each other's position, there was also recognition that these positions remain far apart," Ramos said.

Ramos said Manila "appreciates ASEAN's support for the 1992 Manila Declaration on the South China Sea" and for its call, made in the ASEAN foreign ministers statement of recent developments in the South China Sea issued last March 18, for "the exercise of restraint and for the peaceful resolution of the mischief reef issue."

The multilateral talks on the Spratlys were pushed on the initiative of the Philippines in the wake of the intrusion of Chinese warships and setting up of structures on the Panganiban Reef, or Mischief Reef.

But China insisted that it was unnecessary for other ASEAN countries to join the talks, saying bilateral talks between claimants could resolve the issue.

Because of China's adamant position on the issue, Ramos said it was agreed that the Chinese structures in the Mischief Reef would "not be touched in the meantime."

"But those activities and structures are obviously within our exclusive economic zone," he said.

Reiterates 'Peaceful Solution'

BK0604031095 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Philippines remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the dispute over who has the rightful claim to the Kalayaan [Spratly] Islands.

This is what the president announced following the recent failure to reach a clear agreement during the China-ASEAN bilateral talks in Hangzhou, China:

[Begin Ramos recording in progress, in English] ...on the Mischief Reef issue. The Philippines continues to be committed to a just, peaceful, and lasting solution to the conflicting claims in the South China Sea, and for the Philippines, determined diplomacy and dialogue will continue. [end recording]

Czech President Havel Arrives in Manila 4 Mar

BK0504120995 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel and his wife arrived in Manila on Tuesday [4 March] afternoon for a four-day state visit at the invitation of President Fidel V. Ramos. President Havel and Mrs. Havel were expected to arrive [words indistinct] at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Australia. Official honors for President and Mrs. Havel will be held today at 9:00 a.m., at the new Executive Building in Malacanang. The meeting between the two heads of state followed by expanded bilateral meeting.

Havel, Trade Minister Begin Talks

LD0404171195 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Czech President Vaclav Havel has begun a state visit to the Philippines. Miroslav Konvalina, our special correspondent accompanying the president, telephoned this report from Manila:

[Konvalina] Under special security measures, unseen during the president's South Pacific tour so far, the convoy of more than 30 cars accompanied by armed security, drove through a ceremonially decorated Manila this evening. [passage omitted]

The Czech delegation was joined today by Vladimir Dlouhy, the Czech minister of industry and trade. On his arrival, Dlouhy told journalists that the planned supply of CKD Tatra trams for Manila could be the flagship deal heralding further investment in the Philippines. There is a market for manufacturers of equipment for the electricity generation and transmission. Minister Dlouhy also foresees other possibilities for trade cooperation.

[Begin Dlouhy recording] We can openly say that the Czech Munitions Works is interested in supplying the Philippine police force with hand guns; this is an open and standard deal. I just had a short briefing with our business delegation about some other matters. We will see what tomorrow has in store for us. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meets With President Ramos

BK0604101695 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos and visiting Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel expressed yesterday their firm resolve to explore other means for more

meaningful and dynamic partnership between the Philippines and the Czech Republic, anchored on economic progress and political stability.

Alleged Yusuf Letter Warns Ramos of Terrorism

BK0604030295 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police intelligence agents have revealed the contents of a letter from international terrorist Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf to President Ramos. In the letter, Yusuf warned the president that terrorism will be brought to the Philippines. According to intelligence reports, the letter was written by Yusuf to scare the president and stop the plan to transfer custody of two terrorists from the Philippines to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States. The two supplied information that led to Yusuf's arrest in a hotel in Pakistan. On the day Yusuf was arrested, two attache cases were found containing bomb making equipment and several toy cars with bombs inside.

Further on Events Surrounding Ipil 'Massacre'

Ramos Dismisses Commander

BK0604104295 Quezon City DZBB Radyo Bisig Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ramos dismissed Chief of Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Command Brigadier General Regino Lacson, after the successful attack of Abu Sayyaf terrorists of Ipil municipality in Zamboanga del Sur, where the military was caught unprepared. The president's dismissal of General Lacson is on the grounds that he was deficient as a leader of the Armed Forces in the area where the hideous incident took place. The attack of 200 terrorists succeeded because of the negligence of General Lacson.

Meanwhile, President Ramos assigned Brigadier General Edgardo Batenga to replace Brigadier General Lacson as chief of the Southern Command. Batenga will start assuming his new post as chief of Southern Command tomorrow.

Ramos Comments on Impact

BK0604055795 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president is confident the Ipil massacre will not affect the country's economy or the economic activities among the member nations of ASEAN:

[Begin Ramos recording, in English] But I do not really see any significant or long-term effects on EAGA [East ASEAN Growth Area], because if you look at the map, Ipil is really not near the center of EAGA action right now, which are in the cities of Davao, General Santos, and Zamboanga. Ipil itself is quite a distance from Zamboanga City. [end recording]

According to the president, the Mindanao incident will have no significant effect on the peace talks between the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] and the Philippines. The peace talks will continue in Jakarta this June.

Defense Secretary on 'Lapses'

BK0604051895 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa has admitted that the intelligence gathering of his intelligence agents was inadequate to prevent the terrorists from carrying out their threats to stage violence. According to De Villa, his men had received information on terrorist attacks in the municipalities of General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, and Zamboanga. He added that the terrorists mentioned different places to mislead the military, but his men were still able to respond while the violence was taking place:

[Begin De Villa recording, in English] It must be admitted that it came as a surprise that they hit Ipil rather than the other places which they were expected to harass, at least. Now, there are probably lapses in the matter of information gathering or even the flow of information, and this is being looked into right now, but let me stress that the police and the military units in the area reacted as fast as they could. [end recording]

The military suspects that the combined forces of the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] were responsible for the surprise attack. They identified the terrorist leaders who led the attack as Hadji Anwa, Hadji Abas, and Jimalal Salvador of Abu Sayyaf and someone known as Akidin from the MNLF camp. If it can be proven that the MNLF was involved in the incident, De Villa said, the matter will be raised in the peace talks so that appropriate steps can be taken against the group.

Officials on Possible Motives

BK0604045695 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Passages within quotation marks recorded in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and Local Government and Defense Departments are studying several motives in relation to the Ipil massacre the other day.

According to Defense Secretary Renato De Villa, there are three possible theories as to why the terrorists staged the massacre: To gather funds, to rescue the jailed son of an MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] commander, or to avenge the nonpayment to the terrorists of 10 million pesos in ransom by the Chang family in exchange for the release of one of their sons.

Meanwhile, according to Local Government Secretary Raphael Alunan, it is possible the terrorists staged the

violence to celebrate the anniversary of the Abu Sayyaf last Tuesday or to avenge the arrest of six suspected Arab terrorists last Saturday.

On the other hand, General Arturo Enrile, AFP chief of staff, said the terrorists may have staged the attack to gain media attention:

[Unidentified correspondent, in progress] "...also a reprisal for the arrest of some international terrorists in Manila, as what they are claiming?

[Enrile] "If indeed... [pauses] We are still, you know, confirming on various findings further. If indeed this is an Abu Sayyaf project, then it could be that this could be a reprisal.

[Correspondent] "From all indications, who is responsible for this? [preceding five words spoken in Tagalog]

[Enrile] "That is what we do not know yet. [preceding sentence spoken in Tagalog] As of now, based on what we have seen on the grounds, this could possibly be an Abu Sayyaf project; but I will not say that it is already. We need a little time to check further."

He added that he did not think the terrorists' threats were serious:

[Enrile] "Well, I guess it is something that was not really expected here in Ipil, considering that in Ipil itself and within the vicinity, there are really no known, you know, I would say terrorist elements operating here. And we look at the perpetrators as coming from very far away places, considering that one group landed right there in the (Vistas Palid) and two other groups came from other directions. So they must have come from places quite far from Ipil."

As a result, the president has asked the military to explain why they were not able to monitor the terrorists' activities:

[Ramos, in progress] "...the Southcom [Southern Command] to clarify why this happened, what were the reactions of the unit responsible for the defense of these communities, and what were the actions of the units on the grounds nearby."

Two culprits in the attack have been arrested. Electric power in Ipil has now been restored to normal operations.

Thailand

Chuan Offers To Mediate Spratlys Dispute

BK0604043395 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand is ready to act as mediator to settle the dispute between China and the Philippines over the Spratly islands, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai reaffirmed yesterday.

He said this message had been conveyed to Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng during their meeting in Denmark last month and to Philippine Defence Minister Renato de Villa during his recent visit to Thailand.

"As Thailand is not involved in the problem, we would be happy to mediate and have Thailand as the venue for negotiations over the problem," he said, adding that negotiations would be the best way to settle the problem.

The Premier also suggested a joint development of the islands as another alternative to resolve the problem, citing the joint development areas in overlapping territorial waters between Thailand and Malaysia as an example.

"Though this takes time, it is a good way to settle such a dispute," he said.

BOT Steps Up Scrutiny of Foreign Banks

BK0504151295 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 5 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign banks in Thailand [and] their branches, and Bangkok International Banking Facility (BIBF) will be required to prepare annual credit extension and monthly loan reports, the Bank of Thailand [BOT] said yesterday.

The central bank said it will give foreign banks until the end of May to submit their credit extension plans, to be followed by monthly reports to determine whether the loans were within their target range.

At a time when foreign banks are keen on setting up BIBF branches in the provinces, the BOT is keeping a close watch on the loan activities of foreign banks operating in Thailand.

The central bank's decision was motivated by the need to restrain surging loan growth, while directing lending to productive sectors. Six priority sectors were identified: agriculture, crop agriculture, low-income housing, industrial investment, exports and mining.

The ratio of loans issued by foreign banks has jumped to about 10-11 percent of total loans compared with only 5-6 percent in just a few years.

Outstanding loans by all Thai commercial banks and the BIBF in February surged 29 percent, compared with February 1994 to 3.05 trillion baht. Bank deposits, however, rose only 14.8 percent to 2.72 trillion baht during the same period.

The new measures are in line with those applying to Thai commercial banks. But while Thai banks are restricted to annual credit growth of 24 percent, foreign banks will not be subjected to a fixed rate of loan expansion.

Foreign banks and their BIBF offices must comply with the new regulation on lending activities within 60 days of receiving notification from the BOT.

BOT Governor Wichit Suphinit said: "This new policy is in keeping with our aim to be well informed about present economic conditions, since lending activities are an important economic factor."

Thirachai Phuwanat-Naranuban, BOT director of the Department of Financial Institution Supervision and Examination, said the central bank was not so much worried about foreign bank loan growth, but rather it wanted to keep track of their corporate clients engaged in industrial projects.

Meanwhile, a senior banker yesterday said that commercial banks will not hike their savings deposit rates because savings accounts do not have a significant impact on the funds available for lending.

Dusit Tengniyon, executive vice president of Krung Thai Bank, said his bank had lowered its savings deposit rate from 6 percent to 5 percent after realizing that savings deposits had little impact on the bank's liquidity.

The central bank's policy of tightening lending for property investment could prevent people from buying their own houses, he asserted.

"The central bank must clearly differentiate between loans to property projects and those for housing," he said.

Suphachai Proposes Greater Role for Yen, Mark

BK0604070895 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 95 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr Suphachai Phanitchaphak, deputy prime minister in charge of economics, has proposed that the yen and the mark be given more weight in the basket of currencies which determines the value of the Thai baht in view of the fact that the drop in the US dollar against the two major currencies is likely to be permanent.

Dr Suphachai revealed his idea after a discussion with the economic key men of industrialised nations, particularly the US and Japan that the governments of all major countries had expressed concerns over the continual depreciation of the dollar. It was unanimously agreed the trend tends to be permanent rather than temporary. When compared to the yen and the mark, the greenback is going to be much weaker than in the past.

In light of such development, Thailand's financial and economic structures will be changed radically this year or next. Official foreign reserves and the currencies used in international trade will likely rely on other currencies rather than the traditional dollar, he said.

The country's reserves now stand at over US\$30 billion in gold, special drawing rights (reserves position in International Monetary Fund) and foreign currencies. The majority of foreign currency reserves is at present dominated by the US dollar at the same proportion as it dominates the basket of currencies, he elaborated.

Since the monetary authority needs to monitor inflation, its intervention in the market to ease the tight money situation is rather restricted.

"The private sector should not view that it is the responsibility of the Government to intervene in the money market. Such an attempt might complicate and distort the real picture. The monetary authority just keeps watch and will intervene only to prevent abrupt fluctuations," Dr Suphachai said.

It is therefore necessary for the private sector to adjust itself to prepare for the upcoming massive change in the relative strength of each currency in the world market, Dr Suphachai advised.

He admitted that with the rising yen, Thailand will likely post larger trade deficits this year than the 24.5-billion-baht figure last year. The country still relies on a great number of imports from Japan, which would cost higher with the rising yen.

Most of the imports from Japan are capital goods, raw materials, and machinery. In a few years, the figure is expected to be smaller due to increasing production capacity in the country.

In the long run, a stronger baht will benefit the country as the government has the policy to promote the baht to be principal currency in the region.

Currently, the baht has already played a vital role in Thailand's neighbouring countries, with a third of all the currencies in use here being the baht.

Nopphamat Manolihakun, spokeswoman of the Bank of Thailand, said the country's official reserves portfolio is normally managed by the basket of currencies, most of which is denominated in the dollar.

But the softer greenback does not devalue the country's currency reserves since other currencies such as the mark and the yen appreciate in tandem.

"The central bank is rather conservative when it comes to managing the reserves. Although increasing the shares of the yen and the mark might be alluring and will help boost the combined value of the portfolio, it is too risky. At present, the dollar is nosediving at a fast rate. If it bounces back all of a sudden, the country's reserves will be drastically affected," she said.

The country's US\$300-million reserves are now managed by four international financial institutes: SG Warburg, Swiss Bank, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan.

She added that the central bank let foreign firms run the country's reserves not for profits but to learn what major fund managers do under a given circumstance.

The major principle in managing a country's reserves is to maintain the fund at the most stable status, she said.

Some stock market analysts had expressed concerns the dollar could drop to less than 80 yen.

'No Difficulties' in Repaying Yen Loans

BK0604081195 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 6 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Finance Ministry has no difficulties repaying yen-denominated loans despite that currency's appreciation against the baht and dollar, the Fiscal Policy Office Director-General Somchai Ruchupan said yesterday.

The ministry was able to use official reserves to buy the currencies in which debts were due, Dr Somchai said.

Dr Somchai said foreign reserves were sufficient to cover all the country's debts and therefore no difficulties were expected from the exchange rate fluctuations.

Debts held by state enterprises, which come under the Finance Ministry's supervision, would not be a problem either, Dr Somchai said.

"Thai state enterprises never suffer losses from exchange rate fluctuations. Debt management of the government and state enterprises has been carefully planned to avoid any impacts from money fluctuations," said Dr Somchai.

State enterprise borrowings were not confined to a single currency, therefore losses from the appreciation of one currency against the baht were compensated for by the depreciation of other currencies.

According to a Bank of Thailand report issued last November, 40.58 percent of Thailand's total borrowing sourced from Japan.

Thailand's entire loan burden as of September last year totaled 102,982.2 million baht.

When categorized by currency the loan burden was divided as follows: \$1,912 million, 217 million Danish kroner, L5.1 million, D-mark 79.8 million, Canadian \$29.8 million, 174,838.3 million yen, 316 million Swiss francs, 12.2 million French francs, \$18.3 million special drawing rights, 77.2 million in Saudi riyals, 176.3 million in Belgian francs and 38.4 million in Norwegian kroner.

Suphachai on Financial Situation, Copyrights

BK0504155895 Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 3 Apr 95 p 5

["Exclusive interview" with Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [NAEO NA] As the ongoing fluctuation of foreign exchange rates is causing an adverse impact on the Thai stock market, to what extent do you think the establishment of a 15 trillion baht stock support fund can help improve the situation?

[Suphachai] The stock support fund was first used when the Asia Trust Bank and Racha Finance and Securities

Company were in trouble. The people's confidence in stock investing was decreased further when the government launched a suppression of stock manipulation. At that time, the government had to intervene to shoulder the debt burden, ensure normal trading, create the right atmosphere, increase public confidence, and alleviate a deterioration in stock trading. The government broke even or made very little profit at the time the fund was withdrawn.

This time, things are different. The problem did not originate in the country. The current financial problem is worldwide. The foreign exchange rate structure has changed to the extent that the European currencies and Japanese yen are appreciating against the U.S. dollar.

The drastic fall of the U.S. dollar has frightened investors and financiers. They do not want to keep their money in the same place for a long period of time because they have to think about liquidity. The negative impact, therefore, has been on both foreign and Thai stock markets. The establishment of the stock support fund does have some psychological effects. Things will be different this time because the amount of money injected into the market will help only for a certain period, but the world's financial problem will linger on for a long time. Thailand will have to bear the consequences of the external origin of the problem. [passage omitted]

[NAEO NA] What is the forecast for this year's financial situation?

[Suphachai] First of all, we must admit that the financial turbulence will not go away easily. I am not a fortune-teller, but I know that the U.S. dollar will no longer play as important a role as it used to do. The current rate of 88 yen to a dollar is not yet the lowest. The US dollar can plunge lower this year or next year because the United States cannot yet solve its own economic problems. They can only come up with temporary solutions.

In fact, their production needs to be reformed. The Americans must work harder, save more, and consume less. Their taxation must be more stringent. They should impose a heavy oil tax to discourage extravagant consumption. European countries impose very high taxes on oil products because they want to practice austerity.

The financial turbulence is likely to last the whole year and readjustment is always necessary. The government's investment in the elevated train, airport, mass transport, and other projects can guarantee an annual economic growth of 7 or 8 percent for the next decade. Meanwhile, investment by the private sector such as in industrial estates and the expansion of factories also will make a significant contribution. The change of government will cause a drawback only for a short time. Generally speaking, the investment climate is still good.

We are now encouraging entrepreneurs to build more industrial plants in provincial areas. Investment projects

in the province are normally not very big. They are unlikely to be affected by a general financial problem because they are labor-intensive rather than capital-intensive.

[NAEO NA] Will the depreciation of EU currencies, an austerity policy, and trade contracts that prescribe transactions be made in U.S. dollars cause any problem for Thai exports?

[Suphachai] We are not yet at that point. The depreciation of the U.S. dollar brought us back to where we were in 1984 when we devalued our baht currency. Thailand loses nothing. But we will have to make some adjustments to cope with a slowdown in exports, a temporary one anyhow. The change in the baht value will enhance the competitiveness of our goods in foreign markets. Naturally, the baht currency will appreciate when we become stronger.

Take Japan for an example. When the yen/dollar exchange rate slipped from 230 yen per dollar to 150 to 180 yen per dollar, everyone thought that it was the end of Japan. On the contrary, Japan became even stronger. With a stronger yen, the Japanese could sell more because they improved the quality of their products. They managed to reduce their production costs. The stronger yen was not a problem for Japan at all because labor costs remained unchanged as imported raw materials became cheaper. Because of the stronger yen, the Japanese started buying property at prices attractive to them in foreign countries, which later was used to assist their production abroad.

What Thailand has to do now, not as much as the Japanese did in the past, is that we must start investing in foreign countries. We must make use of our stronger baht and apply appropriate technologies we have developed or purchased from elsewhere. This is the time when copyright protection is necessary because it will help us legally obtain technologies. Some foreign countries were reluctant to transfer their technologies to us because in the past we loosely enforced our copyright law. Thailand must produce more personnel to work with new technologies, upgrade the people's educational level, and import more new technologies. Investment protection, reduction of production costs, penetration into more markets for high technology products such as electronic circuits and electrical appliance are necessary.

[NAEO NA] What do you think about the problems concerning the suppression of copyright violations, including the protection of computer software, literature, and music works?

[Suphachai] Many people are confused in this regard. We must start with the interpretation of the law. The people should be clearly informed about what protection of copyrighted work really means. I want the Commerce Ministry to spell out this issue. In fact, we have long been prepared, but our understanding of the legislation is not unified. For example, the software we copied into our

machines earlier are considered legal or illegal. Of course, we cannot use them for commercial purpose. The software installed into our machines for personal use before the promulgation of the Copyright Law should be exempt. It should not be illegal to modify computer software for educational purposes. We have to seek advice from the United States and from legal experts of the WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organization], which is a world organization that has been in charge of intellectual property protection for several years.

However, the United States itself has not yet settled this problem. Numerous lawsuits of this nature are still waiting in the U.S. courts. We have to see how they deal with this problem. The U.S. intellectual property protection organizations should also instruct people how to do things correctly because everybody also wants to do so. Artists and writers are also confused. They do not know what they should do and should not do in producing intellectual works.

Therefore, the Commerce Ministry will have to work hard to keep the people well informed and summarize major points of this matter for discussion at the meeting of the International Economic Policy Committee to be held in April. We will find ways to minimize the impact of the international practices regarding copyright protection.

[NAEO NA] Will there be any agency that is directly in charge of intellectual property protection in the future?

[Suphachai] The government has already submitted a draft bill on the establishment of the intellectual property court to the parliament. The court to be under the jurisdiction of the Justice Ministry and will facilitate the protection of intellectual property.

The intellectual property court will be well versed in international law and problems concerning copyright protection and will be able to deliver quick verdicts. This is the initiative of the government. No one forced us to do so. We want to prove that Thailand has an effective intellectual property protection system. The majority of countries are members of Berne Convention and have not yet joined the Paris Convention. Thailand has been persuading the other ASEAN member countries to set up working teams to look after intellectual property and join all treaties such as the Berne, Paris, and Rome Conventions.

Defense Officials Discuss Shooting by Burmese

BK0504144195 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Wichit Sukmak, minister of defense, said that he had instructed the Thai-Burmese border coordination office to convince Burma to take responsibility for the killing of a Thai villager by Burmese soldiers. He noted that according to a report he had received, after the Burmese soldiers seized a plastic toy gun from the Thai villager, the man was unable to

resist further. Thus, the Burmese authorities should not have killed him. He pointed that if Thai troops had encountered a similar incident, they would not have resorted to such a harsh response. Nonetheless, the Thai side understood the incident very well, because it has maintained good relations and understanding with the Burmese military leaders.

As for the tightening of security measures along the border, it is the duty of the government to adopt measures to convince both Thai and Burmese peoples living along the border to be aware of the current situation so that they will be more careful, especially in areas where border crossing points are closed, and that losses to the lives and property can be prevented.

In another related press briefing, Gen. Prasoet Saralit, undersecretary of state for defense, commented that we should lodge a protest against Burma, adding that no matter where Thai people reside, their lives are priceless. The killing of the Thai villager was unwarranted, he added. However, it does not mean that we are indifferent to resolving this issue. In addition, we should not blame one another for failing to take responsibility for the incident. All three organizations, namely the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and Foreign Ministry have coordinated and maintained constant contacts with one another. He expressed hope that the incident would not create any misunderstanding between Thailand and Burma because any problems in the relations between the two countries are a matter for the high-level authorities to solve, so that they can reach an amicable solution to all difficulties. All local differences should be settled by existing regional and provincial border coordination committees.

Regarding the killing of the Thai villager, we must conduct an investigation to determine whether the person was insane or not. However, no matter the circumstances in which the slain man might have found himself at the time of his killing, he was nevertheless a Thai citizen, and his life was precious. In case the Burmese Government refuses to take responsibility for the incident, Gen. Prasoet said that we would discuss that hypothetical question later. He commented that we could not entirely put the blame on the Burmese Government, because the murder of the Thai man was carried out by low-level authorities. He does not believe that the Burmese Government would pursue such a brutal policy.

Chuan Comments on Killing

BK0604081095 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The shooting of a Thai villager on Sunday in Chiang Rai province was an overreaction by Burmese soldiers, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

Chuan said he had been informed by the Defence Ministry about the incident, but the report did not

confirm what kind of firearm the villager was carrying when shot. Whatever it was—a firearm or a toy gun—the Burmese soldiers overreacted by killing him, the premier said.

Thawi Khamtankaew, 38, from Chiang Rai's Chiang Saen district, was shot in the back as he returned from Burma's Tachilek district to Mae Sai in Chiang Rai. It was also reported that he was carrying a toy gun.

According to a police investigation, Thawi wanted to buy goods at Tachilek market even though the Burmese government had closed the border following an attack by Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army last month.

The prime minister said he had asked the Interior Ministry to warn Thais along the Thai-Burmese border of the possible dangers that could materialize by the internal conflicts in Burma.

Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak said yesterday that he had asked Thai authorities at the border in Tachilek to officially protest about Thawi's death.

He said he would like the Burmese government to admit responsibility by saying its soldiers had overreacted. But said it was up to the Burmese government to decide whether to take action against the soldier responsible.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit earlier said that the Burmese troops had behaved correctly in Sunday's shooting. He said Thawi had mental problem.

According to Wimon, Thawi had carried a toy gun into Burmese territory and had refused to be searched by Burmese soldiers. He then tried to escape back to Thailand and the Burmese opened fire.

The Army chief also said Thai soldiers would have done the same if faced with a similar situation.

Army spokesman Phalangkun Klahan said the media had "incorrectly" reported Wimon's comments about the incident. He said the Army chief's comments were edited to such an extent that the meaning had been changed and Wimon's reputation had been damaged.

Col Phalangkun said Wimon's remarks were based on "reasoning, principle and recognized military practice", adding that the Army was investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, the House committee on foreign affairs yesterday demanded that the Burmese government explain the incident, and called on the Thai government to ensure protection for its people.

After a meeting, committee member Sutham Saengprathum said the Burmese government must provide an explanation and apologise for the death of a Thai citizen. He said the Burmese soldiers should not have shot Thawi even if he did have mental problems.

He said Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong and Wimon should not make any comments until Burma had

given an explanation about the shooting. He said the committee will ask representatives from the Army and the Foreign Ministry to explain the incident during the committee's next meeting.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Meets Reporters Before Tokyo Visit

BK0604022095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnamese party General Secretary Do Muoi will soon visit Japan, and accordingly he has spoken to Japanese and Vietnamese reporters on bilateral relations.

It will be the first time a Vietnamese Communist Party general secretary has officially visited Japan. Mr. Do Muoi said it indicates favorable and fast development of bilateral relationship. He hoped his meeting with the Japanese emperor, the prime minister, statesmen, and the press circles and people of different walks of life will help strengthen bilateral cooperation on a larger scale.

He said in recent years, Japan has been Vietnam's largest trade partner and ODA [Overseas Development Aid] donor for Vietnam. He added there are still more potentials for bilateral relations. Vietnam has a large labor force and diversified natural resources and developing economy, while Japan is a leading developed country. Japan was rich in capital, technology, and management experience. Mr. Do Muoi stressed that despite its strengths, Japan only ranks fifth among foreign investors in Vietnam. He described that as not yet matching the potentials and interests of both countries and he called for more investment in Vietnam.

He said during his Japan's visit, he would inform Japanese leaders and people of the latest achievements as well as potential of Vietnam and its open door policy. He would convey to the Japanese people the friendship and earnest desire for further cooperation. He was looking forward to witnessing the miracle of Japan's economy and learn valuable experience in Japan's economic development and social development.

General Secretary Do Muoi said Vietnam deemed it important to study and exchange experience from Japan as well as China, South Korea, and ASEAN countries. But he pointed out that each country has its own historical, physical, and traditional characteristics and therefore it was impossible to strictly follow any models and instead has to apply the experience from other countries in a selected manner to be relevant to each particular country.

The party leader attached great importance to foreign investment in Vietnam's national construction but described internal factors as the most decisive part of development.

To Seek Debt Relief, Grants

OW0404133595 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Apr 95 Morning Edition p7

[By Fuminori Murata]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hanoi, 3 Apr—Do Muoi, secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam, who will visit Japan from 17 April, met the Japanese press on 3 April and discussed the question of the increased burden of yen loan repayment due to the yen's appreciation. He said: "To solve this problem, we intend to ask the Japanese Government to increase its grants-in-aid."

Muoi also touched on the issue of an increase in the interest rate for yen loans. He indicated that the top issue for his visit to Japan will be official development assistance (ODA), including yen loans.

Regarding yen loans, Muoi claimed that "With the recent appreciation of the yen, future repayment will be increasingly difficult. If a strong yen continues, it will be a disaster for Vietnam." He also said, "To expand relations between Japan and Vietnam, an increase in grants-in-aid is necessary." He expressed his intention to seek major concessions from Japan on ODA.

With regard to the prospective increase in the yen loan interest rate from 1 to 1.8 percent, Muoi voiced his misgivings about Japan's demand to increase the interest rate. He said, "Vietnam's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is still \$200. I hope the interest rate is maintained at 1 percent for some time."

Article Outlines Japanese Capital Investment

BK0504151795 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 20 Mar 95 p 15

[Article by Hoang Van Huan: "Japanese Investment: Still Only the Tip of the Iceberg"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the late 1950s, the Japanese began funneling capital into various investment projects in an emerging Southeast Asian nation. Thirty-seven years and US\$18.7 billion later, Japan today tops the list of foreign investors there, surpassing runners-up Hong Kong, Britain, and the United States.

That emerging nation isn't Vietnam—it's Indonesia—but the scenario could be repeated here in the near future provided Vietnam's foreign investment climate is favourable for conservative Japanese investors.

In Vietnam, since 1989, only US\$800 million from 75 projects have been invested by Japan, ranking the island nation fifth among foreign investors here. By contrast, Taiwan has invested US\$2.5 billion; Hong Kong, over \$1.6 billion; Singapore, \$1.1 billion; and South Korea, over \$900 million.

But many Vietnamese (and Japanese) believe Japan's commitment of investment capital will increase rapidly in the near future; some even predict Japan will soon

occupy the top slot on Vietnam's foreign investment charts.

Increasing Japanese Investment

Year	Number of projects	Investment Capital (\$million)
1989	3	\$ 77.3
1990	5	2.2
1991	8	14.5
1992	10	148.2
1993	17	120.8
1994	27	420.6
2 months 1995	5	23.1

Analysts have likened the Land of the Rising Sun with an elephant which rises clumsily but runs swiftly once on its feet. M. Araki, senior advisor of Nissho Iwai Group in Vietnam, compared Japanese investment in Vietnam to a forest of bamboo shoots sprouting after the rains.

Elephants and bamboo shoots aside, other seers are more critical; they point directly to Japan's steady slide from the position it held in the 1980s as dominant international investor in the dynamic Southeast Asian arena.

While Japan, for example, remains Indonesia's largest foreign investor overall, other nations surpassed Japan's relatively meagre 1994 investment of US\$1.53 billion. Last year, South Korea invested \$1.88 billion in Indonesia; Taiwan: \$2.48 billion; Britain: \$2.95 billion; and Hong Kong: a staggering \$6.04 billion.

In the past, South Korean, Taiwanese and Hong Kong companies were too weak to compete with the Japanese giants, but recently such powerful conglomerates as Daewoo, Hyundai, and Lucky Goldstar of South Korea, as well as Taiwan's Ching Fong and Vedan, have prepared to pump billions of dollars into foreign markets, including Vietnam.

Japanese companies have been taking cautious steps in Hanoi. Even after the approval by Vietnam's National Assembly of the Foreign Investment Law in 1988, when Vietnam attracted US\$360 million in foreign investment, the Japanese were conspicuously absent from the list of investors.

Not anymore. The Japanese have expedited their investments in some major projects.

Last year, for example, Japan's Nomura Group and the City of Hai Phong broke ground on a US\$120 million industrial zone, the first of its kind, in Hai Phong's Vat Cach area. The 150-hectare zone could possibly attract 100 enterprises, many coming from Japan, with total capital to be pooled to the tune of US\$500 million.

It is also reported that Mitsui Group is looking for investment opportunities in a 300-hectare industrial zone, where perhaps US\$200 million will be invested in infrastructure construction.

The proposed 2.4 million-tonne cement manufacturing project in Thanh Hoa province is a joint venture [JV] powered by Japan's Mitsubishi Group, with an investment capital of US\$347 million.

Of course, Japan's major auto and motorcycle manufacturers have been making their presence felt in Vietnam for years.

Their involvement is extending beyond sales, to in-country production. Companies including Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, and Yamaha have recently signed agreements with Vietnamese partners to assemble and eventually manufacture vehicles in Vietnam.

To support the investment activities of Japanese companies in Vietnam, representative offices of many Japanese banks—including the Bank of Tokyo, Fuji Bank, Daiwa Bank, Mitsubishi Bank, Sanwa Bank, and most recently the Industrial Bank of Japan—have been opened in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Japan's bankers and businessmen appear to share a particular view of Vietnam as an investment market; to attract more Japanese business, they feel it is vital that Vietnam create an environment suitable to Japanese custom and practice. Japanese investors have spent years studying the Vietnamese market, while the Vietnamese have been lax with regard to the research so necessary to attract the conservative Japanese investor.

The disparity was not lost on Japan's Prime Minister Miyazawa; during his visit to Vietnam last year, he said the Vietnamese parties must work much more before they could be able to attract more investment capital from his nation.

Japanese projects over US\$10 million

Projects	Location	Investment Capital (US\$, millions)
1. Hai Phong-Nomura Industrial Zone	Haiphong	\$120.5
2. Ho Tay Holiday and Hotel Company	Hanoi	104.9
3. Hai Thanh-Kotobuki Hotel JV	HCMC	80.0
4. Floating Hotel	HCMC	70.0
5. Star Car Making JV (Car Assembling with Mitsubishi)	Song Be	50.0
6. PSC on oil and Gas at Block 15-2 (Japan-Vietnam Petroleum Co, Ltd)	—	47.0
7. Vina Kyoei Steel JV (Steel rolling and threading)	Ba Ria-Vung Tau	46.4

Japanese projects over US\$10 million (Continued)

Projects	Location	Investment Capital (US\$, millions)
8. PSC on oil and gas at Block 05-3 (with AEDC, DP Exp., Den No)	—	42.4
9. PSC on oil and gas at Block 102/91 (with Idemitsu)	—	32.0
10. Hase-Sai Co-op JV Company (Business Centre)	HCMC	19.5
11. ExeKim Lien Hotel Dev JV Co	Hanoi	15.0
12. Thuy Khue Flower Village Co, Ltd	Hanoi	14.4
13. Vietnam Airlines Hotel JV Co, Ltd	HCMC	11.0

Vu Khoan Views ASEAN Ties, Spratlys Issue

BK0504152895 Hanoi VIETNAM ECONOMIC TIMES in English Mar 95 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Vu Khoan, deputy minister of foreign affairs, by Jeremy Grant and Ly Van Sau; date, place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam joins ASEAN in July. What will be the major benefits to Vietnam through membership?

I think it will be a turning point in the history of the relationship between Vietnam and ASEAN countries after the Second World War. In the 50 years after that war, Vietnam and other ASEAN countries were in a position of confrontation, for different reasons. Now, this is the first time when all ASEAN countries and Vietnam are members of the same association. Secondly, Vietnam's entry could make a significant contribution to stability, peace and cooperation in this region, because usually co-operation is better than confrontation. Thirdly, ASEAN is a very important economic body and many ASEAN countries are Newly Industrialised Countries (NICs) and they play a significant role in the region's economic relationships. And Southeast Asia is a big market of more than 400 million people. Vietnam's membership will widen this market for Vietnam, ASEAN and other countries.

General Secretary of the Communist Party Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet have both warned of the dangers of Vietnam growing too slowly, of being left behind by other NICs. Do you not think there is a danger also that membership of ASEAN will simply emphasise how far Vietnam has got to go in order to catch up?

Everyone knows that, economically, Vietnam is at a lower level of development when compared with other

members of ASEAN. It's clear. I think membership and co-operation will help us to reduce the gap.

What have ASEAN members said that they are willing to do to help you?

We're not talking about assistance. We are talking about co-operation. Joining ASEAN, we have a greater chance to expand our market. We have more favourable conditions in which to cooperate with other countries because other countries will consider ASEAN including Vietnam as a "common market", with common conditions, and they will pay more attention to Vietnam. This process will help us expand our economic co-operation with other countries.

Can you give me some specific examples of benefits that you are expecting?

For example, if a British company sets up an enterprise here, it will be thinking not only about the Vietnamese market but also about the Southeast Asian market as a whole. They can export to other ASEAN countries. In other words, foreign companies would consider comparative advantages of ASEAN countries, including Vietnam.

What is the biggest thing that your counterparts in other ASEAN countries have said worries them?

Naturally, there are some differences in our social system, in our economic system—including the taxation system—and we need some time for familiarisation. We have started this process by sending many officials to ASEAN countries in order to study regulations and procedures.

What is the biggest issue in this regard?

Taxation. As you know, all members of ASEAN are members of GATT (now the World Trade Organisation). But Vietnam is still an observer at GATT and our trade system, including taxation, is different from GATT. That's why we have to pay more attention to this process.

Do you have any timetable for this?

Not yet. No exact timetable.

Clearly, Vietnam will gain many things from ASEAN membership. What will ASEAN gain from admitting Vietnam?

ASEAN countries make up about 15 percent of investment in Vietnam, especially Singapore and Malaysia are active. Our trade relationship with ASEAN countries occupies about 30 percent of total trade turnover. Membership will contribute to ASEAN's prosperity.

About a year ago, Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said that Vietnam's political system was not an obstacle to ASEAN membership, which it clearly hasn't been.

All ASEAN leaders emphasise this point, not only Goh Chok Tong.

In the future, you don't see this being an issue?

I don't think this is a problem.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos has just spoken out against what is reported to be a Chinese build-up of infrastructural hardware in the Spratly Islands. What's Vietnam's reaction to this?

We emphasise our sovereignty over the Spratlys and Paracels, but at the same time call on all countries to resolve all disputes by peaceful negotiation and, pending a long term solution to this dispute, we should like all countries to maintain the status quo, avoid any action that could create disturbances and complications in this region.

You say "pending a long term solution". Clearly, then, the Vietnamese government and perhaps other members have some long term solution in mind. Could you tell me what shape that might take?

The solution requires discussion and negotiation. Now, we are starting the process. As you know, we have an agreement with China to set up a working group and it is hard for me to say now what kind of solution there might be.

Do you see the solution being more worked out between you and China, or between all the claimants to territory in that area?

We support bilateral negotiation and multilateral discussions among claimants. We support both forms of negotiation. I have just been to the Philippines and our Philippine friends agreed with me that it's time to push ahead with negotiation.

Do you think all the claimants share that opinion?

At least I know that the Philippines share it.

The flag of the United States was raised in Hanoi recently. What was the feeling in the Foreign Ministry about this very symbolic event?

You know very well our stand. We support normalisation with the United States. And a normal relationship between the United States and Vietnam could bring benefits not only to Vietnam but to the United States too, because not only the US but other countries are coming here, Japan and other countries are interested in cooperation. So why is the United States staying on the sidelines?

Do you think that the increase in the number of Republicans in the US Senate and House of Representatives could slow down the normalisation process?

I think a normal relationship between the United States and Vietnam is in the interests of not only one (US political) party. It is in the interests of the United States

as a whole. Some time ago a group of senators or congressmen came here, including Republicans and Democrats, and they expressed wishes for normal relations.

So you don't think that the Republican sweep changes anything?

It is my hope that this doesn't happen.

You were a diplomat in the former Soviet Union for 20 years, latterly as the second in command at the Vietnamese embassy in Moscow. What has been the reaction of your former Soviet colleagues to the warming of ties between Hanoi and Washington? How does that leave your relationship with the former Soviet Union?

We have good relations with Russia; we maintain and try to develop our traditional ties. Russia has warm relations with the United States. Why should they oppose us having a normal relationship with the United States?

You've been back to the former Soviet Union once since you left there as a diplomat, which was before the collapse of the Soviet Union. What was your reaction to the changes you saw?

The last time I was in Moscow was in May 1990. Frankly speaking, I was very sad, seeing how bad the economic situation was in this potentially very rich country, with hardworking and bright people.

VietSovPetro Finds Oil Reserves in Rong Field

BK0504151595 Hanoi VIETNAM ECONOMIC TIMES in English Mar 95 p 31

[Unattributed report: "Russian Find"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam's biggest oil producing venture, VietSovPetro, has found oil in its 14th well in the offshore Rong (Dragon) field, a company official said.

"The well's production is estimated at 400 cubic metres per day," he said. "The discovery opens a potential and new prospect for exploration in Rong."

Output of 400 cubic metres would equal about 352 tonnes or 2,600 barrels per day (bpd). The official said oil was discovered last month below a depth of 2,500 meters and the well lay on a different seismic structure from the one that was already producing.

Rong, VietSovPetro's second and Vietnam's third producing field, started pumping small quantities last December.

VietSovPetro, a joint venture with Russia, has tapped over 25 million tonnes of crude oil since 1986 from Bach Ho (White Tiger) field. Last year it produced 6.7 million tonnes, nearly all from Bach Ho.

It is understood to be re-structuring its management and operations along the lines of a western oil company to improve efficiency.

A consortium led by Australia's BHP Petroleum Co started pumping last October from Vietnam's third field, Dai Hung (Big Bear), with initial production of 25,000 to 35,000 bpd.

Vietnam has signed about 30 Product Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with foreign oil firms and is expected soon to award a contract for an offshore block, 15-01, in which major western and Japanese companies have shown keen interest.

PetroVietnam is believed to have drawn up a shortlist of firms whose bids will be considered before a final award.

Vietnam has said it plans to produce 7.5 million tonnes of oil in 1995.

National Assembly Issues Communiqué No. 6

BK0604021895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ninth National Assembly's Seventh Session recently issued Communiqué No. 6.

It says that the National Assembly deputies held group discussions on the draft civil code this morning. This evening, under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu, the deputies held a plenary session on the draft civil code at the Conference Hall.

Sixteen deputies expressed their views: Venerable Kim Cuong Tu of Hanoi, Tran Du Lich and Catholic Father Phan Khac Tu of Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Dinh Ngo and Nguyen Khoa Kim Boi of Thua Thien Hue, Lo Van Linh of Lai Chau, Tran Thi Le Thu of Binh Dinh, Nguyen Duy Qui of Nghe An, Nguyen Thanh Phong of Dong Thap, Nguyen Van Nhan of Ha Bac, Truong Minh Thang and Pham Huy Thao of Minh Hai, Vuong Thi Nhi of Lao Cai, Luong Cong Doan of Phu Yen, Huynh Nghia of Quang Nam-Danang, and Truong Thi Khue of Quang Tri. The views expressed by the deputies focused on such issues as the position of the civil code in Vietnam's legal system, principles and laws dealing with the enforcement of civil rights and obligations, and the scope of the civil code's amendment.

Tomorrow, 6 April, the National Assembly will continue its debate on the draft civil code at the Conference Hall.

SCCI Chairman on Administrative Reform

BK0504110795 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 20 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, by an unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The resolution of the eighth Central Committee meeting centred on State administrative reforms. Why has the reform been planned in this period of time?

Vietnam is like a teenager who has to change his old small shirt for a new, bigger one to fit his body. The democratic state of the Vietnamese people has experienced many changes.

The State's task from 1945 to 1954 was that of national salvation. From 1954 to 1975, the State was the mechanism to manage our people to carry out two tasks: completing the democratic revolution in the south and building socialism in the north.

After 1975, the Vietnamese Government's task was to institute the socialist revolution through the whole country.

From the sixth Party Congress in 1986 to now, the Government has implemented the great process of "doi moi"—renovation: from the renovation of ideology to that of politics, the economy, culture and society.

The major achievements of "doi moi" have driven our country into a new era with new opportunities. We have to take the chance to develop the country and to gradually bridge the economic gap with other nations.

It's a big challenge for the State; and one which needs to be faced. The development of a whole country should not be slowed by a weak government.

Over the past decades, the State has achieved great successes for the people. But it should be frankly admitted that history has entered a turning point. The State that was built under the old mechanism is unable to meet the tasks of the new era.

In other words, the infrastructure has rapidly developed and is renovating its superstructure.

So the object of the Government's administrative reform is to establish a clean, powerful, and strong administrative foundation in order to efficiently manage society, implement the Party's policy and strategy and the Government's law, in order to create a wealthy people, a powerful country, and an equal and civilised society.

So that means the Government must change its function and task. But in what way?

First of all, the function and task of the Government, especially that of Government Agencies must be reexamined.

The good may be maintained, but the outdated must be changed. So the reorganisation of some agencies may be

necessary. But the reform must be based on the following principle: the Party's leadership must be sustained. Not only in Vietnam but in every nation... it is the same in any country. In Vietnam, the leadership of the Communist Party has been affirmed throughout the long revolutionary history of the nation. So administrative reform means the renovation and the perfection of the leadership of the Party.

Secondly, while reform is carried out, political and social stability must be maintained. If administrative reform causes social damage and the breakdown of social order, this places a heavy burden on the people. What then is the purpose of reform?

The current reform is aimed at strengthening the managerial efficiency of the Government and developing society according to the people's desires and hopes.

Could you explain the relationship between the legislative, executive and judicial systems in the administrative reform of Vietnam?

The legislative system in Vietnam includes the National Assembly, the National Assembly's Standing Committee and other committees under the National Assembly.

The judicial system includes the courts, and People's Prosecutor's Office.

The executive includes the Government and authorities at all levels.

In Vietnam, the National Assembly is the supreme power. It defines all legislative activities. The three systems are not completely separate, but interdependent, and are sometimes involved in the operation of the others.

For instance, the National Assembly might issue a law. Laws have to be applicable to the practical realities of life. So the Government proposes the draft law to the National Assembly for consideration and approval. Or the National Assembly might plan the budget which means it has participated in the executive's task.

Is it correct that the main task of the current administrative reform is to merge some ministries? And will the SCCI [State Committee for Cooperation and Investment] be one of those merged?

The three main tasks of the reform consist of: renovating administrative mechanisms and procedures; reforming the administrative apparatus; and establishing a Government workforce which is skillful and qualified.

There is a term in Vietnamese: "nhan su" ("staff office", or "personnel"). In reality, the existence of the "staff" has caused the appearance of the "office" (i.e. the mechanism has been formed because of existing staff arrangements).

To reverse such a term into "su nhan" (that is, to consider the functioning of the mechanism, or the office, ahead of the staff) is also a revolutionary step.

So from objective experience, it is necessary to reform the Government mechanism following a principle of reducing the number of government staff, reducing the number of government organizations.

Nonetheless, to avoid another round of integrating and separating, merging and dividing, such as has happened

in the past, this time the re-organisation must be carried out carefully, on a scientific and practical basis.

Thorough study and preparation are needed. Hurried and piecemeal implementation of reform must be avoided.

Every administrative agency will be put under consideration, with no exceptions.

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